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Y. E. Y. Meeting
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1898 - 1907
ARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND Y M

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N.E. Yearly Meeting
~~Men~~
Women
Minutes

1898-1907

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

Records of New England Yearly Meeting
of Women Friends commencing Sixth Month
1898. — 1907
Book No 2.

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1898.

At New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westerly, Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings for worship on First-day, the 12th of Sixth Month, 1898, and on Second-day Morning the 13th for discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed to attend this Meeting as representatives

From Rhode Island — Eliza F. Browning, Abby W. Gardner, Martha B. Shefield, and Lydia F. Nichols. From Sandwich — Sarah E. Mitchell and Sarah F. Wilbur, whose names being called they are all present.

Our beloved Friend, Eliza H. Varney, is in attendance with us, having a certificate from West-Lake Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Bloomfield Ontario, Canada, Seventh Month 15th 1897. and endorsed by West-Lake Four Months Meeting held at Athens, Ontario, Canada, Tenth Month 2nd 1897. and also endorsed by the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, expressing their unity and concurrence with her prospect of an extensive visit in Gospel Love in several parts of the United States, and also in Vancouver, as she may feel required of her and Truth direct, she being a minister in unity with them. Her company and services have been very acceptable and precious to us, feeling that she hath been favored to rightly divide the Word amongst us, to our instruction and edification, as well as comfort and encouragement; and a desire has been expressed that her labors in the service of our Lord and Master may not be in vain, but that we may profit thereby. The Clerk is direct-

-ed to furnish her with a copy of this Minute, signed on behalf of the Meeting.

We have received very acceptable Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, expressing much unity of spirit and tender love; also kindly feelings of sympathy for us, and a lively concern for our individual faithfulness, that there may be an advancement in the way of Truth. We appoint Abby W. Gardner, Mary J. Foster, Anna H. Chace, Susanna W. Gidley Sarah F. Wilbur and Mary A. Gardner to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings as way may open, and present them at a future sitting.

Our dear Friend Benjamin W. Wood, is in attendance at this Yearly Meeting having a certificate from Pickering Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Pickering, Ontario, Canada, and endorsed by Yonge Street Quarterly Meeting held at Yonge Street, also by the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held at Pickering; expressing their unity with his concern to visit, in the love of the Gospel, Friends and others throughout Canada Yearly Meeting, also Friends and others within the limits of Ohio and Western Yearly Meetings, and to visit parts within the limits of Philadelphia, North Carolina, and New England Yearly Meetings, as way may open for, he being a Minister in unity with them. His company and religious services have been very acceptable to us, and the Clerk is directed to sign a copy of a minute in conjunction with the Clerk of the Men's Meeting.

We appoint Sarah F. Wilbur, Mary J. Foster, and Susanna W. Gidley to prepare a

1898. summary from the answers to the Queries and present it at our next sitting.

The representatives are desired to confer together, at the close of this sitting, and agree upon the name of a Friend for Clerk, and one for Assistant Clerk, and report to the next sitting.

No further business coming before us, we adjourn to the time this afternoon that Men Friends propose.

Afternoon, near the fourth hour, Friends again met.

Abby W. Gardner, on behalf of the representatives, informed the Meeting that they had conferred together, and were united in the reappointment of Mary A. Gardner for Clerk, and Sarah H. Wilbur for Assistant Clerk. Their names being separately considered, are united with, and they are accordingly reappointed to those services.

The several Queries, succeeded by answers to each, from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, have been read at this time, also a Summary prepared therefrom, which is approved by this Meeting to be placed on record. Viz

Answer First.— All our Meetings for religious worship and those for discipline have been duly held, and have been diligently attended by a portion of our members when health permitted, but the week-day meetings and some for business are neglected by some. The hour is generally pretty well observed by most Friends. Friends are mostly preserved from sleep. Of other unbecoming behavior clear.

Answer Second.— Love and unity generally maintain-

1898.

-ed. Detraction guarded against. No differences have come to our knowledge.

Answer Third. — We believe that there is a care and concern still resting with some Friends, that our testimonies may not be entirely forsaken, but may be maintained in regard to plainness of speech, behavior, and apparel, pernicious reading and the corrupt conversation of the world, and also to be good examples herein themselves, but from the many deviations which appear among us, we can but feel that more care and a deeper concern to be found faithful, is needful on the part of others. We believe that the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends' families.

Answer Fourth. — We think that Friends are careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine, also the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, and to keep in moderation and temperance on most occasions.

Answer Fifth. — None needing assistance. No children placed from among Friends.

Answer Sixth. — With one exception, Friends have observed the requirements of this query.

Answer Seventh. — There are some instances of attending meetings where there is a paid ministry.
We believe clear in the other parts of this query.

Answer Eighth. — We believe Friends are careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts.
They are punctual to their promises and just in the payment of their debts, and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

1898.

Answer Ninth. No Offices are to exercise in the Ministry to the records. One removal without certificate, in which case some care has been extended.

Answer Tenth. We believe that a concern yet remains among us that offenders should be dealt with as required by discipline. No placing of judgment since our last account.

The records of this Meeting for Sufferings have been read at this time; they are satisfactory, and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in appointing the same Friends who were constituted this Meeting for Sufferings, who are as follows; Isaac Tucker, George Foster, Thomas Perry, John M. Foster, Jonathan Chace, J. Barclay Foster, Wm. J. Binder, James P. Turner, George C. Foster, Amos C. Foster, John T. Arthur, Oliver Perry, George H. Gifford, Anna M. Chace, Sarah H. Arthur, and Hasy A. Gardner.

No further Services presenting, we adjourn to the time to-morrow, that then Friends may repair.

Third day, the 11th of the month, near the usual time in the afternoon Friends again met.

The names of the representatives being called, all are present.

The Committee appointed at previous sitting to prepare Essays & Epistles to the several yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence have produced such, addressed to Ohio, Western, Iowa, Kansas and Canada Yearly Meetings of Women Friends, which have been read and approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign and

1911. forward the same on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

The Committee having the care of the distribution of Friends books and Tracts make the following report [See Minute Minutes,] which is accepted and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends, with the addition of George Foster, to serve in that capacity, for the ensuing year, who are as follows: George C. Foster, J. Barclay Foster, Job D. Gidley, Frances M. Seeker, Enos C. Foster, Frederic C. Bugbee, Edna Perry, Mary R. Hood, Martha B. Mitchell, Elizabeth F. Foster, Emma L. Chace, Sarah F. Wilbur, Emma D. F. Perry, Elizabeth G. Wilbur, Emma A. Gardner and George H. Wilbur.

A returning Minute has been prepared for our dear friend Eliza F. Varney, signed by the Clerks on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

This meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in the proposition to print the Minutes of both meetings and the Epistles received, the same as last year.

We acknowledge with grateful hearts that during the several sittings of this Yearly Meeting we have been favored to feel Jesus Christ to come with a sense of our Heavenly Father's Love overshadowing our little company and tendering our hearts in loving sympathy, and uniting us in Counsel. The business that has come before us in harmony and unity, in which we adjourned concluded purposing to meet again at this place in the ninth month 20 next year, if consistent with the Divine will.

Mary D. Gardner, Clerk.

1845 To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

The reading of your very acceptable Epistle to Toronto Last has Together tended Sweetness and Heart-felt gratitude for the Love Unity Sympathy and loving Sympathy flowing from Dear Sisters in Gospel Love towards us. It is comfortable to know that our Social Situation is realized, and Some portion of Encouragement to such as are still concerned to uphold the principles and Testimonies of Friends in their primitive purity, are indeed very precious, and we trust will tend to strengthen the things that remain, which seem sometimes almost ready to die. Earnest desires are felt that the Counsel imparted to us, to Kindle the Divine Light in our individual Hearts and also to strive more and more diligently to do his perfect will, may not be Lightly passed by and soon forgotten, but be Thoughtfully and seriously considered to our profit. The Lord's Mind is not Understood that it Cannot Save, nor His ear grown heavy that it Cannot hear every sincere and fervent petition from Trusting Hearts; and where a true and living Faith in Him, and obedience to His will as Made known to us in the secret of our Hearts, cannot receive a sure and sweet Reward. We have received very acceptable Epistles from all of the Yearly Meetings in our little circle of correspondence, which with the Company and services of a few dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings has indeed refreshed, and strengthened us to press forward, with Hearts uplifted in humble thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for these unmerited favors in mercy granted us. We have been Lovingly and tenderly enabled to seek first-

1848. the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, trusting in the promise that all things necessary shall be added thereto"

We feel to affectionately encourage every one to be faithful in the discharge of known duties, and to yield obedience to the virtues of truth in the heart, and when temptations are presented to us, to take a firm stand against them, remembering that it is those who endure to the end that shall be saved.

We have been favored to transact the business that has come before us, in love and harmony.

With desires for your and our preservation and advancement in the truth, We remain your affectionate friends

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.
Dear sisters

It has been under a deep sense of our weakness, and our lonely, dependent condition as to the outward, that broken and contrite hearts have looked forward to our annual assembly, humbly craving that strength not our own may be bestowed, counsel granted, and mercy furnished to transact the business coming before us, in true meekness and humility, and that each might attain unto such a victory over self, as to, in lowliness of mind, esteem another better than ourselves; Also that every service performed might be to the honor and praise of the Master & all rightly gathered assemblies, and He alone exalted.

We have received your valuable & joyful

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& Lord hath provide, and the tender sympathy and encouragement so kindly expressed, is truly acceptable, comforting and strengthening our hearts and the hands that are sometimes almost ready to hang down with weakness.

We believe that it is a measure of the Love of God which is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit, which is given unto us, that begets tender and loving sympathy; and the true and living concern manifested in these precious Epistles from those who are but little known as to the outward, but who are striving to walk by the same rule and mind the same things and by the same assurance of saving are drawn near together in unity of spirit and bond of love for the increase of Godliness in ourselves by the principles which we profess, and for the prosperity of Truth in ourselves and others.

A few dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings are acceptably with us at this time. Counsel and instruction hath flowed freely in that ability and power which God alone can give. which we gratefully acknowledge as renewed evidence that we are still the objects of His love and care. The dear young Friends have been appointed & encouraged to give up the fleeting pleasures and vanities of this world, and be willing to be known as meek and lowly followers of our crucified and risen Lord.

We trust that these earnest solicitations, and the travail of soul for our dear youth will not be without avail but in some prepared hearts may take root, and in the Lord's own time bring forth fruit to His honor and praise.

We gratefully acknowledge the favor of very acceptable Epistles from each of the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, which are cheering and strengthening to us, bearing evidence that although widely separated by distance we are

1898. indeed drawn near together in unity & spirit as sisters & one household of faith who are striving to be found faithful over even a few things.

May none, among you or us, "grow weary in well doing. For in due season we shall reap if we faint not." In sincere love we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting
Mary A Gardner. Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.
Dear Sisters.

Your Epistle, with others from all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, have been read in our Meeting, with renewed feelings of thankfulness for the many friendly words of greeting and exhortation.

Most of our members are in attendance this year and we have the company of several Ministers from other Yearly Meeting. They have been highly favored in their communications and supplications in our meetings, and we feel that the prayer has been answered which we put up in the words of the Psalmist "God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us.

And we are bowed down with grief that our fellowmen have not joined with us in the continuation of the same Psalm, "O let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon the earth." Some whom we had hoped were the disciples of the "Prince of Peace," have taken counsel of the powers of darkness, and entered into unjust strife with those who seem not to know that "Righteousness exalteth a nation."

The shadow of war over our country invites us anew to examine our hearts and consider our words,

1898. that we may see wherein we are responsible, through errors of commission or errors of omission for the spirit that animates those around us. Human reason is fallible and human nature is weak, and it is only through humble dependence upon our spiritual Guide, that we can hope to live to the Glory of God, and through Mercy, that we may hope to be received at last into the realms of eternal peace.

With loving greeting, we are your sisters.
Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Friends.
Dear Sisters.

It is with humble gratitude that we acknowledge the favor of being permitted to once more convene together in our annual assembly, and while we feel that we are poor and needy, we have learned that Holy help which would enable us to transact the affairs of the Church to the glory and honor of its Holy Head.

We are far removed from our sister Yearly Meetings, and often feel lonely, but the reading of your Epistle brings you near us in spirit, and may we be truly grateful for the favor thus granted us, for these sisterly communications from the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, serve to cheer our drooping spirits and give us more courage to keep on our way endeavoring to do the deeds and fulfill the duties required at our hands.

We can sympathize with you in your desires for the dear young people both with you and within our own borders. Would that they might be led to see the beauty and joy of yielding themselves, in the morning of their days, as clay in the hand of the Heavenly Potter, and know of being molded to His will and become faithful workers in His vineyard, doing whatever work He calls for us

1898. faithfully, that at the last day each may receive the joyfull reward of "Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord." May we all be willing to do our duty in the daytime, that we may also be prepared to enter one of the many mansions prepared for the righteous of all generations.

We have with us at this time several dear friends from distant Yearly Meetings, and much good counsel has been communicated in our hearing, and a desire has been felt that it may be heeded, sinking deep in our every heart, and not be allowed to pass from our minds making no impression for good, for our Father in Heaven hath said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." How terrible must be the fate of any if left to themselves, having sinned away the day of grace. May we be preserved there-from.

With love unfeigned and sincere desires for your welfare and preservation, we are your friends.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Most of the members of this, perhaps the smallest Yearly Meeting of the number, have once more gathered from their respective homes for the purpose of unitedly worshipping in spirit and in truth Him whose promise is, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," and also to transact the business usual to such an organization, which has been done in harmony, thereby strengthening the bond of love and sympathy which should exist in our society.

One year ago when we assembled we missed the loved form and face of one who had filled a

1898. prominent place in our meetings for many years,
To day as we took our accustomed seats we were remind-
ed that the year just closed had a similar record, as upon
the page it was recorded. Gone from among us are those
dear friends who having lived their four-score years, faith-
fully occupying during their long pilgrimage, the talents
committed to their care, continued to the end bright and
lively in spirit and tenderly sympathetic in heart. As
we linger lovingly over their memory the sad thought
comes, others may soon leave us. Their wise counsels cease
Who in our numbers are to fill the broken ranks? Who
among us will be deemed worthy to wear the mantle
as it falls? We crave there may be a willingness kept
on our part individually to move in the strength given,
and in the duties which belong to each one, for by daily
fulness in little things only can we ever hope to be fitted
for the greater responsibilities which in future years must
be ours, if we would hold together and keep for encourage
our beloved Society and our Head pastures in the faith.

Your Epistle of one year ago was read on our
Meeting, and as usual comforted and encouraged us
by its contents, and a hope was raised that we might
be stimulated to more earnest self-sacrificing endeavors,
by the suggestions made, thinking less of our position as
Members than for a season that the ground of our
hearts be filled and prepared to receive the good seed.

The bond of sympathy and concern for us expressed in
your written Epistle has been emphasized and confirmed
by the presence of two living Epistles from your Meeting
whom we could welcome with that gratitude which
thankful hearts may feel but cannot express, and a desire
has been begotten that the company and labors of these
dear friends who have sacrificed so much in the Masters
service, may not have been in vain.

In dear love and Christian fellowship we bid you
farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

1899. At New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westerly Rhode Island commencing with public Meetings for worship on First day the 11th of 6th month 1899, and on Second day morning the 12th for discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed to attend this Meeting as representatives. From Rhode Island Abby H. Gardner, Lydia F. Nichols, Martha B. Sheffield and Ella S. Foster. From Sandwich Sarah E. Mitchell and Sarah F. Wilbur, whose names being called they are present.

We have received, and read at this time, very acceptable Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence, and these precious tokens of love and sympathy, as well as the interest manifested for our spiritual welfare, and desires for our individual faithfulness, are indeed encouraging and instructive, and we trust may not be without profit. Abby H. Gardner, Mary Forster, Sarah F. Wilbur, Susanna M. Gidley, Elizabeth C. Newby and Mary A. Gardner are appointed to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings as way may open, and present them at a future sitting.

Our beloved Friend Ida D. Chawner is in attendance at this Meeting with a certificate of unity and correspondence from Cottonwood Falls Monthly Meeting of Friends dated Jan 13th 1899. Liberating her to visit, in the love of the Gospel, New England and Canada Yearly Meetings, and some of the Meetings belonging to them, and endorsed by Colorado Quarterly Meeting of Friends held in Kansas 5th mo 20th 1899. She

1884.

during a season of much spiritual refreshing. Our Friends
and Gospel labours are truly acceptable and profitable
to us, and much unity is expressed, as well as a sense
of the sacrifice she has made to perform the visit
given at her hands, and the Meeting is directed to join
her with a minute embracing the same.

We appoint Thomas H. Cutler, Mary J. Foster, Caleb
W. Longfield and Sarah P. Wilbur, to prepare a Report
of Yearly Meeting answers to the Queries, and present it at our
next sitting.

The Representatives are desired to confer
together at the close of this sitting and report the
names of Friends for Clerks, and report at the opening
of the Meeting this afternoon.

We adjourn to meet
this afternoon at Ten Minutes before Three o'clock.

Afternoon. The Yearly Meeting again met.

Mary J. Foster, on behalf of the Representatives appoint-
ed this morning, that they had prepared Epistles which
were received in the Representatives of Ohio Yearly
Meeting of Friends and Sarah P. Wilbur of Canada Yearly
Meeting which were separately considered and united with
and they are accordingly appointed to have them

Our dear Friends Enoch and Catharine Carter are
with us at this time having a minute of unity and
concurrence from Spring River Monthly Meeting
of Friends dated 3rd mo 22nd 1884. Concerning their
proposed visit. They being Elders with us and Ministers
of this Meeting and service are very acceptable
to us, and the Clerk is desired to sign a cer-
tificate on behalf of the Meeting.

1899. Our dear Friend Eli H. Harvey is also in attendance
of this Yearly Meeting with a Certificate of unity
and concurrence from West Lemon Monthly
Meeting of Friends held at Monrovia, Morgan Co
Indiana, 2nd mo 24th 1899, crediting him to visit, in the Love of
the Gospel Philadelphia and New England Yearly
Meetings and the Meetings belonging to them
by appointment or otherwise as Truth may open the
way, and to attend such other religious services
as may be called for he being a minister with
whom they have unity, endorsed by Whole Lemon
Quarterly Meeting of Friends held 2nd mo 11th 1899.
His company and services are very acceptable to us.

Also our dear Friend Thomas Elmore with a minute
of unity and concurrence from West Lemon
Monthly Meeting of Friends crediting him to accompany
my Eli H. Harvey in his proposed religious visit; he
being an Elder in good esteem. His company and
gospel labors are acceptable and edifying to us

Our dear Friend Cyrus W. Harvey is in attendance at
this Yearly Meeting with a certificate of unity and
concurrence from Spring River Monthly Meeting of
Friends held 2nd mo 18th 1899. Liberating him to attend
in the Love of the Gospel, the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia
and to labor in its limits as way may open,
to attend New England, and Canada Yearly Meetings,
and to visit the Meetings constituting them,
by appointment or otherwise, and to labor among
those not in membership as Truth may direct,
he being a minister with whom they have unity
endorsed by Spring River Quarterly Meeting of
Friends held 2nd mo 23rd 1899. His company
and services are acceptable to us.

Our dear Friend Jesse Haines is also in attend-

1899. -cance with a minute of unity and concurrence from
New Garden Monthly Meeting held at
West Grove, Penna. 8th of 5th mo 1899. Liberty Under
to visit in Gospel love some meetings and some Friends
in Pennsylvania, also Friends of New England Yearly
Meeting, and the approaching Yearly Meeting in Canada.
He being a Minister in unity with them. His compa-
ny and services are very acceptable to us.

Also our dear Friend Emma F. Haines
wife of Jesse Haines with a minute from the same
Monthly Meeting, uniting with her apprehension of
duty to accompany her husband on a portion of his
service to which he is called. She being in the station
of an Elder, in unity with them. Her company
& Solid deportment are very acceptable to us.

The Clerk is desired to sign returning minutes for all of the above named Friends, on behalf of this Meeting.

The several Queries were then by answers to each from Rhode Island and Sandwich Preparative Meetings have been read at this time, also a summary presented from which it to be placed on record. viz.

Answer First. All our meetings for worship and discipline have been held except six. All of the omissions were on account of inclement weather. A portion of our members are diligent in the attendance of all meetings when of ability to do so, but the week-day meetings and some of those for business are neglected by some.

The love is generally pretty well observed. Friends mostly preserved from strife. Cases of other unbecoming behavior.

Answers Second. Love and unity in a good degree maintained. Friends endeavor to guard against detraction. No differences have come to our knowledge -

1779. Spoons Queries. Care and concern is still felt by some Friends that our Testimonies in these respects may not be forsaken, but where we consider the growing declensions among us we can but feel that more care, and a deeper concern to be found faithful, is wanting on the part of others. The Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends families.

Answer Fourth. We think Friends are clear as to the several parts of this query.

Answer Fifth.- Care is taken to relieve such as need assistance. Children freely partake of learning, and grow up exercised youth among Friends.

Answer Sixth.- Clear as far as we know in the several parts of this query.

Answer Seventh.- There are some instances of absenting Meetings where there is a Gospel ministry. Clear in the other parts of this query.

Answer Eighth. We Friends careful as to the several parts of this query, but we feel that more care on the part of some to live within the bounds of their circumstances would have been better.

Answer Ninth. Careful in regard to records. One of our members who has removed to reside within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, has requested to retain her membership with us, which has been granted by the Monthly Meeting.

Answer Tenth. Friends feel a care to deal with offenders, but perhaps it is not done as seasonably in some cases as might be best.
To justly exercised Solaces while our Lot account.

1899. We adjourn to meet again tomorrow, at the hour Men Friends may propose.

Third day the 15th of the Month and the Usual hour in the afternoon Friends again met.

The names of the representatives being called they are all present.

The Committee appointed at a previous sitting to prepare essays & Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, have produced such addressed to Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Canada Yearly Meetings of Women Friends which have been read and approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them on behalf of this Meeting.

The records of this Meeting for the transactions of the past year have been read and approved.

Men Friends inform that they are united in the appointment of the same Friends who now constitute that body, with the exception of Thomas Perry, deceased, which is united with by this Meeting with the addition of Lydia K. Dickinson and James W. Gidley, which is united with by the Men's Meeting.

Our dear Friend Rhoda S. Mallett from Poplar Ridge New York is in attendance with us. Her company and services are very acceptable.

The Committee having the care of the distribution of Friends books and Tracts, make the following report;

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting;

The Book and Tract committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting, report a considerable number of tracts have been distributed during the past year, a large

1899.

part of them by mail. More than fifteen hundred pages have been sent for distribution in the State prisons of Maine, Massachusetts, and Ohio, and as many more were sent for use in the State Institutions at Brandon, Vt. Tracts have also been sent to individuals in various places, and expressions of thanks and appreciation received from some, and it is hoped the seed thus sown may bring forth fruit. They have replenished their stock through the Friends' Book and Tract Depository in Philadelphia, and the funds for paying the same have been furnished by the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting. There have also been a goodly number of Tracts and Friends' Books distributed in Westerly to good satisfaction.

On behalf of the Committee,

George E. Foster.

which is remitted with, and this Meeting unites with the Home Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends to that service for the ensuing year.

The love of God has been sweetly experienced and felt among us by the dear Friends who were drawn to be with us, and a deep concern for our spiritual welfare and advancement in the Truth, has been expressed during the several sessions of this our annual gathering.

We have been admonished to more diligence in our several allotments, and to do our days work in the day time ere the night cometh in which no man can work. Much sympathy and encouragement has been extended to the comfort of our spirits, and we have been counselled not to give up to discouragement, for it is from the enemy that, if he cannot lead us astray in one way, is just as ready to do it in another. The great responsi-

1892

duty & carried in the care & love exercised & all has been plainly set before us, and the dear young people as well as the children have been tendered and affectionately entreated to give themselves to the Divine influence in the opening of their minds before their hearts have grown hard, and they have wandered so far away that it will be much more difficult to return.

Although we came together in much weakness, and a sense of our unworthiness, yet we feel to acknowledge with humble thankfulness that we have been favored, from time to time with a measure of our Heavenly Father's loving presence overshadowing our little company, and enabling us to transact the business that has come before us, in harmony and unity; which being brought to a close, we solemnly conclude, purposing to meet again at this place, if it should be our great, & unmerited lot, to be favored with.

Mary H. Gardner, Clerk.

To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters.

As we met again in a Yearly Meeting capacity, we are afresh reminded of the many mercies and blessings that are bestowed upon us, in the reading of the valuable Epistles and Reports from Yearly Meetings with which we are favored. It was given us renewed courage to labor diligently, that we may have the precious seal of Life & Peace, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

We have with us several dear Friends from distant Yearly Meetings whose counsel and

1877. encouragement in these things has been very accep-
table some serving their distant homes, and
counseling life and family not too dear to give up,
to go forth, in great weakness of body, to declare
the unsearchable riches of the Gospel of Jesus
Christ; and may their services of love "be strength-
ened up in inward and good hearts, who hearing
record the Word keep it, and bring forth fruit
with patience." To the praise and glory of the Great
Husbandman. We have been deeply exer-
cised sympathy with you, feeling that we have
little to encourage us as to the outward, but we
have been tenderly admonished to feed the wil-
derness of our every heart, and to seek for a settled
mind and quiet, whereby we may the more clearly
hear the voice of Him who teacheth as never man
taught. We have been counseled to be faith-
ful burden-bearers, and not to be swallowed up by
the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of
riches, but seek first the Kingdom of Heaven
and its righteousness, that we may be counted
so of the hidden manna, to receive "a white
stone and in the stone a new name written which
no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

We feel children have been lovingly entreated
to be obedient to the gentle intimations of Divine
Love in their tender hearts, that they may grow
up that year by year in the knowledge of their
Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have conducted the business coming
before us in condescention and sisterly love, and
may thankfulness of heart be our portion for the
many favours vouchsafed us. And now we
bid you an affectionate farewell, and may
the God of peace, that brought again from the
dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of
the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting

1877. covenant," "make you with us perfect - in every good work, to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever."

With a Salutation of Love we remain your friends,

Signed on Behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Another year having passed, we find ourselves assembled together in the business capacity of the Women's Meeting for Ohio Yearly Meeting. The Committee appointed to furnish replies to the several queries and recommend to your Meeting to receive - feel sensible of the expenses we incur & responsibility but we trust the small offering we can bring - if cast before you a willing offering, in simplicity & truth - will be accepted in the same kindly spirit with which it is proffered.

Most of your members are strangers to us personally, but the acquaintance formed through your correspondence encourages us to believe if in this day when our Society, which has been stripped and scattered by dissensions, divisions and subdivisions, shall receive upturn, there are those who are willing and able to stand for the principles which we as a society profess. Therefore to feel we are in close touch with such, by the sympathetic greeting just received through your annual epistle cheers and comforts those among us who feel for a concern to be found acceptable in the Divine sight. Those, wounded and contrite by the various chastenings which have been permitted would not murmur, but rather will our prayer be, "though he slay me yet will I trust in him."

For we realize the truth of the assertion made, that

1834. as it was ordained faithfulness that gathered us as a Society so it must be continued if we remain a Society. Most of our members are in attendance at this time, and we also have the precious company of several dear friends from other Yearly Meetings whose presence together with their Labors our Epistle have been very grateful to our feelings.

In the public meetings as at other times we have felt to acknowledge the marked condescension & fatherly kindness in overshadowing us, and qualifying for precious silent worship as well as vocal testimony and solemn supplication. So it remains for us to admit that we have not been dealt with after our sins nor rewarded according to our iniquities.

No doubt you, like us have been touched by accounts of the suffering Religious who, having patiently endured years of cruel persecution for conscience sake as Russian subjects, have finally sought relief by coming to our shores, where we trust they may be enabled to maintain their allegiance to the cause for which they have suffered all, as faithfully in prosperity — if that is granted — as they have unflinchingly borne the test when subject to severe punishments. May their example & fortitude & unabating duty remain as the members of our Society, wherever situated, to remain steadfast in their faith & testimony inviolable the precious principles which they have been favored to embrace, and cause them to remember that the liberty of conscience which they so freely enjoy, but two centuries ago was purchased for them with the price of blood.

Under a sense of the many mercies vouchsafed to us we feel to say as did the Psalmist — in one of his sublime ejaculations. Bless the Lord all his works, in all places of his dominion Bless the Lord.

In the same bond of love and affectionate

1899. regard we remain your Sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters

We have been once more permitted, through the adorable mercy of our Heavenly Father, to meet in a Yearly Meeting capacity to transact the weighty affairs of the Church. And leaving looked forward to this our annual assembly, with Spirit-covered unction a sense of our unworthiness and inability to do what is called for at our hands, we craved that Holy Help might be extended to us, that all might be done to the glory and honor of the great Head of the Church, trusting Him alone for the help which can be obtained in no other way.

We have been favored with the company of several dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings, which we feel to be an evidence that we are not forgotten by our Heavenly Father, reassuring us He has sent His dedicated servants and handmaidens, from their distant homes to visit us in our low estate.

Much good counsel has been has been handed forth and may it not have fallen as seed on unfertile ground but while looking not downward at any dear friend upward, and prove a blessing to all who were favored to be listeners thereto.

Your Epistle of 1st Month last was received very acceptably in our Yearning, also Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings which we are in correspondence. These Letters come to us each year as tokens of true Christian fellowship, and serve to bring us nearer each other in love and unity, although we are far distant from each other.

May we all, both with you and us, strive to do those that our testimonies may be faithfully upheld

1877. and may each one be willing to fill the place which has been designed for them to fill. May we also be enabled to resist the temptations & the enemy of our souls salvation & learn us away from seeking the one thing needful, by presenting the allurements of the world to our friends, and allowing to draw us farther & farther away from the companions whose influence is not for our good. May we be preserved from these snares, and seek Heavenly Wisdom for our help in all seasons of need.

We very much desire that the dear young people may be led to see the beauty & religion and yield themselves to the hand of that heavenly Potter who will mould them as seemeth to Him good, and lead them through green valleys and by the still waters, where they taste the riches & Eternal Life and the enjoyment of everlasting happiness — and it is to them that we must look for standard bearers, on the ever gathering for those who have borne the burthens have many of them been called to their rewards, and others are passing on in years. We think it may well be asked, on whom will their mantles fall?

In Love unfeigned we would commend you with ourselves to the watchful care of the Lamb bearing Shepherd.

And remain your Sisters.
Signed on behalf of the Meeting
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Sisters.

As we are favored to again meet together as a Yearly Meeting, we are afresh reminded of acceptable greetings from each of the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, that there is a bond of unity and sympathy extended to our little Band remnant, which is truly comforting and encouraging

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and that we be blessed and made thankful for the precious privilege to thus salute each other in Christian love, believing that it is not a mere form, but the expression of a sincere concern for the spiritual welfare, and growth in grace of those with whom we are seldom favored to unite. A desire is felt that we may profit by the counsel and admonition, and seek for ability to submit our wills to the Divine will, not choosing our service, but patiently and humbly yielding obedience in the little things required of our hands, faithfully and diligently occupying the gifts and talents entrusted to us, and for the occupancy of which we shall be called to give an account.

We have at this time the very acceptable company of several dear Friends from other yearly meetings who have been favored to minister in that power which the Lord alone can give; causing us to feel that we are not utterly forsaken of God, but are once more visited in tender love and mercy, and whether we accept or reject such offers of redeeming love, these faithful and dedicated servants and handmaidens will be clear of our blood, and their reward, for the sacrifices made, will be sure and abundant, even that peace which passeth all understanding; and which the world cannot give, neither can it take away.

We feel that there is abundant need for a deep searching of heart to know what it is that has the first place there, and how we stand before Him who knows all our motives and all our thoughts: and we do earnestly crave that there may be more of a full submission to the influences of the Holy Spirit, the drawings of a Father's love which would lead out of a conformity to the spirit of the world, and there would be a willingness to be known as members of the Society of Friends by our language, dress and demeanor, and so act and move as to bring glory and honor to our Father in Heaven, and we should become as a

1897.

city not upon a little [illegible] cannot be [illegible].

To the tried and lonely ones we feel to say, "In patience possess ye your souls" and "in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

"The foundation of God standeth sure having this seal the Lord knoweth them that are His. and let them depart from iniquity."

Committing you with ourselves to the care and keeping of Him without whose notice not even a sparrow falls to the ground,

We bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Through the mercy and favor of our Heavenly Father we have once more been permitted to meet together as a Yearly Meeting humbly trusting that although we represent members only in a very small measure, we may strive individually and collectively, to represent the principles and testimonies which were so faithfully represented by our forefathers in the truth.

Your very acceptable Epistle of 10th mo last has been read in our meeting, together with a like tribute of precious unity and fellowship from each of the Yearly Meetings in our little circle of the same household of faith, and by these tokens of loving recognition, and tender solicitude for the spiritual growth and welfare of each other, we are drawn nearer together and made sensible of the flowing of that love and sympathy which is not limited by either time or distance.

We are favored at this time with the company and services of dear and valued friends

1899. from your Meeting and also from some other Quarterly Meetings, which we gratefully appreciate, and acknowledge with humble thankfulness as a renewed evidence that we are yet the object of the Lord's loving care unworthy as we are of the least of His mercies.

The Bread and water of Life have been freely dispensed through faithful and obedient servants and handmaidens, whose reward will be sure and peaceful, but if we reject the exhortations and admonitions with which we have been so signally favored, our responsibility will be very great.

We feel much interest in the large number of children among you, and earnestly desire their preservation and advancement in that which pertains to their never dying souls and that in their young and tender years they may be led by precept and example, and by loving care and a restraining hand, to choose the Lord for their portion, striving more for His favor than for the possession of this world's treasures which, when obtained, sometimes so fill the heart that there is no place for the Heavenly Treasure. That the little and lowly state was more diligently sought for, and more patiently abode in for it is in this state only, when all of self is laid low that we can draw near unto the Saviour and be taught by Him who teacheth as never man taught.

Desiring that you and we may put on the whole armor of God, and watch and pray that we may not be carried away by the spirit of the world which leadeth into darkness and spiritual death, but know a deepening in the root and a growth in the everblessed Truth, with sincere love, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

1900. The New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westerly Rhode Island, Commencing with Public Meetings for worship on First-Day the 16th of Ninth Month 1900. And on Second Day Morning the 17th for Discipline.

Records have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed to attend this Meeting as representatives — From Rhode Island Lydia H. Nichols, Elizabeth P. Foster and Mary J. Foster. From Sandwich Hannah H. Swift and Seanna W. Gidley. Whose names being called they are present except two, one of whom was prevented from attending by illness.

Our Quarterly Meeting reports the appointment of two Friends as Caretakers to assist in promoting the quiet and orderly seating of the Public Meetings during the Yearly Meeting Viz. Mary J. Foster and Anna A. Gardner, who are both present.

Our dear Friend Elizabeth C. Cooper is in attendance at this Meeting with a Certificate of unity and concurrence from New Garden Monthly Meeting of Friends held at West Grove, Pennsylvania the 9th of 5th Month 1900, liberating her to visit in Gospel Love, New England Yearly Meeting, she being a Minister in unity with them. Her Company and services are truly acceptable to us, and the Clerk is directed to furnish her with a returning Minute on behalf of this Meeting.

We have received at this time very acceptable Epistles from all of the Yearly Meetings in our little circle of Correspondence, which have been read to

1901. their edification and encouragement and we feel to gratefully acknowledge the favor trusting that we may not forget the instructive counsel which has been offered to us in loving concern and tender sympathy.

We appoint Sarah K. Gilbert, Mary J. Foster Susanna W. Gidley, Jane C. Chace, Abby H. Gardner, Elizabeth F. Foster, and Mary A. Gardner, to prepare Essays & Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings as way may open and present them at a future sitting.

We appoint Jane C. Chace, Abby H. Gardner and Susanna W. Gidley to prepare a summary from the Answers to the Queries and present it at our next sitting.

The records of this Meeting for the for the past year have been read and approved and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends to their service for the ensuing year.

The representatives are desired to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon the names of Friends to serve this Meeting as Clerks, and report at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon.

We adjourn to meet this afternoon at the hour Men Friends propose.

Afternoon, 4th Month 4th Women Friends again met.

Elizabeth F. Foster on behalf of the representatives informed the Meeting that they had conferred together and were united in the re-appointment of Mary A. Gardner for Clerk and Sarah K. Gilbert for Assistant Clerk, which being separately considered are united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services.

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...e ... Quarter, ... in answer to ... from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings have been read at this time, that a Summary prepared therefrom, which is to be plac... on record. viz.

Answer First, All our meetings for religious worship & discipline have been attended since our last account. There has been one exception for the year when no women were present - on account of a heavy rain.

A portion of our members are diligent in the attendance of all meetings when of ability to do so, but others are neglectful of this important duty on weekdays and in the attendance of some of the business meetings.

The hour is generally pretty well observed by our Friends. Friends are mostly preserved from sleep. & often unbecoming behavior there.

Second Answer Love and unity are mostly maintained as far as appears. We believe detraction measurably avoided. No differences have been brought to our notice.

Answer Third. - We believe that a concern rests with some Friends, that our testimonies may be maintained in regard to plainness of speech behavior and apparel, also that pernicious reading and corrupt conversation of the world be avoided, and to be good examples therein themselves, but the many deviations apparent amongst us, cause us to feel that more care and a deeper concern to be found faithful is wanting on the part of others.

We think that the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends families

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Answer Fourth— We believe that the use of spirituous liquors is avoided except for medicine, also the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort. And that Friends keep to Moderation and Temperance on most occasions.

Answer Fifth.— The necessities of the poor are observed. No children placed from among Friends.

Answer Sixth— Clear in the several parts of this Query.

Answer Seventh.— There are some Members, who at times attend Meetings where there is a paid ministry. We believe clear in the other parts of this query.

Answer Eighth.— A concern is felt in regard to the several parts of this Query, and we hope Friends are careful to observe them.

Answer Ninth— Friends have a care in regard to records.— No removals since our last account.

Answer Tenth.— Friends are concerned to deal with offenders impartially, but do not do so as seasonably as would be best. No judgment placed since our last account.

We adjourn to meet again tomorrow at the hour Men Friends may propose.

Third day the 12th of the month, near the third hour in the afternoon Friends again met.

1882. The names of the representatives being called all are present except one.

The Committee appointed at a previous sitting to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, have produced such addressed to Genl Western Iowa, Kansas and Canada Yearly Meetings of Women Friends which have been read and approved and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them on behalf of this Meeting.

We have received at this time a communication from John Cox, a member of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends which has been read to our great satisfaction, the evidence conveyed, and kindly concern for our best welfare expressed therein is gratefully appreciated, and this Meeting unites with their Friends in their proposal to print the same with the other Epistles received.

We have received the following report from the Book and Tract Committee

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting
The Book and Tract Committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting present the following report.

The matter of circulating books and Tracts has had some attention by a portion of the Committee and additions made to the supply on hand, through the Friends Book and Tract Depository in Philadelphia the expense of the same being paid by the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting. A considerable number of Tracts and juvenile books have been circulated in Hosteby and vicinity, and often thankfully received.
In addition to those circulated here, many have been mailed to individuals, one friend reports having sent 2786 pages through the mail to families.
A large number have been sent to Public Institu-

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Iowa, Nebr. 300 pages to Leach & Brooklyn N. Y. to use among the Soldiers and Sailors. 300 pages to Ohio for the State prison; 300 pages to the State prison in Charlestown Mass. 1200 pages to the State Institutions in Rhode Island 1800 pages to be distributed in Virginia and 300 pages taken to the Stonington Town Farm. Some testimonials by mail have been received expressing much thankfulness for the tracts.

On behalf of the Committee.

George C. Foster.

which this Meeting unites with, and also with Allen Friends in the reappointment of the same Friends to that service for the ensuing year.

We are sensible of much weakness and unworthiness and feel constrained to gratefully acknowledge that He who first gathered us to be a people is yet mindful of us and in loving mercy and condescension hath been pleased to favor us with a sense of His presence overshadowing our little assembly.

We have been strengthened and comforted by the company of dear Friends who have felt drawn to be with us at this time, whose sentiments and weighty deportment has been to our help and encouragement. Precious counsel has been unfolded to us, under a living exercise and concern that we may be more and more faithful in our several allotments, closing in with the Day of salvation while time and opportunity are afforded us. Fervent petitions have been put up that we may be watched over and preserved from dangers and allurements, and that strangers may not be allowed to devour our strength. Also that the savor of good which we have been favored to feel may be taken with us to our homes, and that we may hold it fast as a precious possession to our profit."

1908. The business of this Meeting being brought to a close, we solemnly conclude, purposing to meet again in this place in Eighth Month if kept your if consistent with the Divine will.

Mary P. Gardner. Clerk

To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Through the tender mercy of our Heavenly Father we have again been permitted to meet to take in the affairs of the Church, and as we listened to the reading of the valuable epistles from our distant sisters our hearts were tendered, and though we are but few in number realizing our lonely and dispersed condition yet are we made to feel, that we are not overlooked, though nothing but Love in His great creation, for His Eye runs to, even the little sparrows are not forgotten, and that the very hairs of our head are all "numbered." Earnest desires have arisen in our hearts that we may feel constrained to acknowledge the goodness of the unslumbering Shepherd of Israel in favouring us from day to day with His presence giving us a little fresh ability to press forward through every discouragement which may arise from within and without; for in the world we shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world".

We cannot follow Him unless we take up the daily Cross, and travel in the straight and narrow way which has been trod in all ages by the followers of a crucified and risen Lord, so may we all be willing, you with us, in our various allotments and especially those in the younger walks of life, "to make straight paths for our feet, and in the silence of all flesh to come to His foolstool and be instructed by Him. The cry of the Psalmist has

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been revived in the meeting. Search me, O God and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Some dear friends from another Yearly Meeting are with us, whose coming and labors have been a strength and encouragement indeed, and may we not go to our homes and straightway forget their tender admonitions. "As we have therefore opportunity let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

May the God of peace "comfort your hearts," and establish you in every good word and work."

In the bonds of sisterly affection we bid you farewell

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters:-

Our Meeting together on the present occasion has been a refreshment and comfort to us and we trust our strength has been renewed.

We have been brought near one to another in sisterly love; and there have been times when in spiritual stillness we believe we have been made sensible of the presence of our Lord.

If, as expressed in your valued Epistle which we have just received, your sympathy was awakened in remembrance of our small number last year, we feel that we can even more largely draw upon your pity at this time, as we may truly admit as the years go by, that these little gatherings number a few less each time. But it has graciously promised, and as our inheritance left to the lowly, for His Church to the remotest period of time

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I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." This promise has been fulfilled in the experience of His servants from age to age perhaps never more eminently than in those days in which their love and fidelity to His holy cause have brought them into suffering and sorrow whether their trials proceeded from the persecution they had to endure from the powers of the world, or from causes which originated among themselves. So long as they abode faithful to Him, He never left them in any of their sufferings to sink under the infirmities of their nature, but was near to instruct and sustain. Thus their times of deepest humiliation were often made seasons of confirmation to their faith. The roots they took downwards were driven closer together, and in that unity which is in the truth they were made helpers, to each other's joy.

In our stripped and helpless condition if we are enabled to experience this, may we not with humble thankfulness say, it is enough?

Our other Yearly Meetings have remembered us in tender love and sympathy, for all of which we feel grateful, but a desire arises that we may not allow these pleasant salutations of love and sympathy so freely bestowed, to hinder us from ascribing all the honor and praise to Him who ever guards and protects His flock however few & scattered. We have at this time the company of a few dear friends from another Yearly Meeting whose presence and Gospel labors have comforted our hearts, and strengthened our confidence in the belief that we are not forsaken.

Although we have times of conflict and humiliation we think we can say they have not shaken our confidence in that Rock upon which all our hopes were built. Christ is still

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precious Jews; we honor Jesus as our Shepherd, our Priest, and our only King.

While strangers to nearly all of you personally we feel an affectionate regard and tender love toward you as a body, who, although so large and strong, consider it not too trivial a service to remember us.

We humbly ask that your reward may be given in proportion to the close and service rendered, and remain your Sisters

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting
Mary A Gardner Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

The reading of your loving epistle has been instruction and comfort to us, and we feel that we are in true Christian love with you address us.

We do feel that you have given us the best advice and counsel, and we trust that we may take such heed that we may reap profitable fruit from it.

We too desire that these annual Epistles may not become merely formal, but may we receive a fresh anointing of our Father's spirit overlooking us and, from time to time, such words of advice and encouragement as shall be helpful to each other in our Zionward journey.

We feel that we are very weak, and altogether unworthy to claim any good in ourselves. We stumble so often by the way that we are many times discouraged. But through the unmerited mercy of our Heavenly Father we are permitted to try again and again, and we trust our blessed Savior will lead us all at last into

1900. Hose mansions prepared by Him for those who love Him, and do His will. He said "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am there you may be also." Again He said "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Let us then each endeavor to keep close at the Master's feet, that we may understand all His mind in regard to us. We have been made, at this time to lift up our hearts in praise to Him from whom all blessings flow, in that He has permitted us to meet and transact the affairs which have come before us in much unity and sympathy & feeling.

We have with us several dear friends from another yearly meeting. Their company and Gospel services are very acceptable to us.

Though a great distance separates us as to the outward, and most of us may never meet in this world, yet we can feel that we are sisters journeying to the same home, led by the same dear guide, the Holy Spirit, and we may expect our Father's welcome there.

With tender love and sympathy we are your sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.
Mary A. Gardner Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

As we are once more favored to meet together for the purpose of transacting the business that may come before us we do feel the importance

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[illegible] ourselves before the most High God and meekly and patiently waiting for His guidance feeling assured that without Him we are not able to take a step forward, or in any way to promote the cause of Truth and righteousness on the earth or the honor and praise of His ever excellent Name.

We are again strengthened and encouraged by very acceptable epistles from all of the yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, each bearing precious counsel and loving sympathy, which we gratefully acknowledge; and God deadre to respond to, in a measure, as we believe of the same fellowship and unity of Spirit one with another by which we are kept to not only rejoice with them that rejoice, but also to mourn with them that mourn, and weep with them that weep, and although not in enticing words of man's wisdom, we trust from an earnest and heartfelt concern to encourage the faithful ones to a patient continuance in well doing, and to arouse the careless and lukewarm to a fresh sense of their accountability, and of the importance of knowing the days work to keep pace with the day and of learning to endure hardness as good soldiers, rejoicing to be found worthy to suffer for the precious cause of Truth and righteousness, remembering the declaration of our Saviour, "If ye were of the world the world would love its own, but because I have chosen you out of the world, the world hateth you But ye may know that it it hate you, it hated me before it hated you".

We have at this time the very acceptable company of a few dear friends from another Yearly Meeting, and the solicitude for our welfare and concern for our preservation from the entanglements of this life, and for more faithfulness and obedience, is gratefully acknowledged as a favor, and an evidence that the Lord is

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messages to us, and is yet striving with us to give up all and follow Him. May the precious seed that has been sown be given place in our hearts nurtured and cherished until it bring forth fruit to the Master's praise.

In the bonds of Christian fellowship and true unity of Spirit, we bid you affectionate farewell. May the Lord watch over keep and direct us all.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters,

Once more, through the mercy of our Heavenly Father we have been permitted to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting; and while weakness only is our portion and we came together feeling poor and needy, realizing that of ourselves we could do no good thing, we have been led to crave help from One who is both able and willing to help His humble dependent children, who seek aright as a little child, listening for, and heeding, His voice in our hearts. We have with us at this time valuable Friends from another Yearly Meeting and Gospel messages have been uttered in our hearing, May the counsel handed forth, sink deep in our every heart, that we may profit thereby

We have been tenderly exhorted to come out of Egyptian darkness, into the light of the Gospel, and warned not to neglect the day of our visitation but close in with the offers of Salvation ere it shall be too late and while we are in possession of our minds and reason, for when on a bed of sickness is no time to make our

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peace and prepare for death, then let us all with you and us seek to know of a preparation for another world, and may we be favored to know that our calling and election is sure. Your sisters gratitude was seen with others from the co-ordinate Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, to our edification and instruction, which we hope will be remembered with profit. There is indeed an encouragement in your Epistle, a vast need of receiving the "forgotten doctrine" of the wonderful privilege of access to God accorded by Divine mercy to every individual under the Priesthood of Christ, we would express the hope that all, with us and with you, may be faithful to the light made known unto them, and that all the gifts bestowed by the Master may be made use of, under His direction, for the advancement of His Kingdom on earth, and for the leading of poor sinful man to seek redemption through the blood of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer.

May the dear young people be persuaded to walk in the straight and narrow way which leadeth unto life eternal, taking up the daily cross and becoming obedient to the requirings of the Holy Spirit which "He cometh unto the temple." "But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiners fire and like fullers soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."

With a salutation of love, and in Christian fellowship, we are your sisters

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

Mary B. Gardner, Clerk.

1901. At New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Westerly Rhode Island, commencing with public meetings for Worship on First-day the 16th of Sixth Month 1901, and on Second day Morning the 17th for Discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed to attend this Meeting as representatives; — From Rhode Island- Lydia F. Nichols, Abby H. Gardner, Martha B. Sheffield and Mary J. Foster — From Sandwich — Sarah E. Mitchell, Susanna W. Gidley and Sarah F. Wilbur, whose names being called, they are present.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs that they were united in the appointment of Lydia F. Nichols to the station of Elder.

We have at this time the very acceptable company of our dear Friend Mary B. Test, with a certificate from Springville Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Middletown 16th of Second Month 1901, liberating her to attend this Yearly Meeting, and for such other service amongst us as way may open for and Best Wisdom direct. She being a Minister in unity with them endorsed by Hickory Grove Quarterly Meeting held at Hickory Grove 23rd of Second Month 1901.

Also our dear Friend Abigail B. Mott, an Elder in good esteem, having a certificate from Springville Monthly Meeting uniting with her concern to accompany Mary B. Test in the service previously described.

Also our dear Friend Esther Fowler, with a certificate from New Garden Monthly Meeting of

1901. Friends held at New Garden, Ohio 25th of Fourth Month 1901. Liberating her to attend this Yearly Meeting, and other service as way may open for and Best Wisdom direct. She being a Minister in unity with them. Endorsed by Salem Quarterly Meeting held 10th of Fifth Month 1901.

Also our dear friend Anna B. Crawford, with a Certificate from Western District Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Philadelphia 29th of Fifth Month 1901. Liberating her to attend in Gospel Love this Yearly Meeting, she being a Minister with whom they have unity.

Also our dear Friends, Edwin P. Sellew and his wife C. Virginia Sellew with a Certificate from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends held 25th of Fourth Month 1901. Liberating and encouraging them in their concern to attend this Yearly Meeting and the Meetings comprising it, and to appoint a few Meetings for the public, in these, and perhaps in other neighborhoods, they being Ministers in unity with them. The company and services in the Love of the Gospel of all the above named dear Friends have been very comforting and encouraging to us, and the Clerk is directed to sign returning Minutes for them on behalf of this Meeting.

Our dear friend Abraham Fisher, is also in attendance with us, having a Minute from Red Square Monthly Meeting of Friends, Endorsed by Eastern Quarterly Meeting of North Carolina, stating that he is an elder in unity and good esteem with them.

We have received at this time valuable Epistles from all of the Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, which have been read, much to our edifi-

1901. cation and encouragement with appreciation of the favor of thus communicating with those who, though far separated as to the outward, yet feel in their spirits tender sympathy and loving unity with one another. A desire has been expressed that by these, and also by the concern and labors of dear Friends who have been drawn to be with us, we may be stimulated to more dedication of heart.

We appoint Abby W. Gardner, Martha B. Sheffield, Mary J. Foster, Susanna W. Gidley, Sarah F. Wilbur and Mary A. Gardner, to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, as way may open, and present them at a future sitting.

We appoint Susanna W. Gidley, Sarah F. Wilbur and Abby W. Gardner, to prepare a summary from the Answers to the Queries and present it at our next sitting.

The representatives are desired to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon the names of Friends to serve this Meeting as Clerks, and report at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon.

We adjourn to meet this afternoon at the hour Men Friends propose.

Afternoon, near the 4th hour Friends again met.

Abby W. Gardner, on behalf of the representatives, informed the Meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing the reappointment of Mary A. Gardner for Clerk, and the appointment of Anna H. Chace for assistant Clerk, and their names being separately considered are united with, and they are according-

1901. ly appointed to those services.

The several queries succeeded by answers to each, from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings have been read at this time, also a summary prepared thereupon which is to be placed on record, as follows viz -

Answer First - All our meetings for religious worship and those for discipline have been held except two week-day meetings - one when no Friends were present on account of inclement weather, and one omitted on account of the funeral of a Member. Those on First-days are generally attended by most of our Members, when health permits, but week day meetings, and some of the business meetings are neglected by some Members. The hour is generally pretty well observed by most Friends. Rounds are mostly preserved from sleep. Of other unbecoming behavior clear when met.

Answer Second. - Love and unity are, we believe, chiefly maintained. We think detraction is measurably avoided. No differences have been brought to our notice.

Answer Third. - We believe that some Friends among us feel a care that our testimonies, in regard to plainness of speech, deportment - and apparel, may be maintained, also that pernicious reading, and the corrupt conversation of the world may be avoided, and to be good examples therein themselves. But many deviations appear which cause us to feel that more care is needful on the part of others. We think that the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends' families.

1901. Answer Fourth — We know not- but Friends are clear of all unnecessary use of inebpicating liquors, and careful to guard against frequenting places of such resort, and to keep in true moderation and temperance on most occasions.

Answer Fifth — Those needing assistance are relieved. No children placed from amongst- Friends.

Answer Sixth — Some evidence of want of care that proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to discipline. One case of keeping company, with prospect of marriage, with one not a member.

Answer Seventh — Some of our members at times attend meeting where there is a paid ministry. We think clear in the other parts of this Query.

Answer Eighth, — We believe most- Friends are careful in the several parts of this Query. But- feel there is some want of care to live within the bounds of circumstances.

Answer Ninth, — Friends have a care in regard to records. No removals since our last- account.

Answer Tenth, — A concern is felt- by some Friends that offenders should be dealt- with as required by discipline. But- we feel that more timely attention, and a deeper concern is needful. No dealing or placing of judgment- since our last- account.

No further business claiming our attention at this time, we adjourn to meet- again tomorrow at the hour then Friends propose.

1901. Third day, the 18th of the Month, near the third hour in the afternoon. Friends again met.-

The names of the representatives being called, all were present.

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to prepare essays of epistles to the several Yearly Meetings have produced such, addressed to Ohio, Western, Iowa, Kansas and Canada Yearly Meetings of Women Friends which have been read and approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them on behalf of this Meeting.

Our dear friend, Ida R. Clemmens now residing within the limits of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, is in attendance with us; her company and services are very acceptable, with appreciation of the effort she made to accomplish what she felt was required at her hands. Her being here without a certificate was on account of having recently removed from the Meeting in Kansas to which she belongs.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the past year have been read and approved, and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends who now constitute that body, with the exception of our dear friend J. Barclay Foster, deceased, Viz. Jesse Tucker, George Foster, John M. Foster, Jonathan Chace, Job S. Gidley, James H. Tucker, George C. Foster, Amos C. Foster, John T. Wilbur, Charles Perry, George H. Gifford, Lydia H. Nichols, Anna M. Chace, Sarah H. Wilbur, Susanna W. Gidley and Mary A. Gardner.

We have received the report of the Committee having the care of the distribution of Friend's books, and tracts, which is as follows.

To the Yearly Meeting now in session.

Your Committee have given some attention

1901. & the circulation of books and tracts and a good-
ly number have been distributed in each Quarterly
Meeting. Having sufficient on hand, none have
been purchased during the past year. The exact
number circulated is not known, but 1600 pages
have been sent by mail. Some were sent to Char-
itable institutions in New York, and some were
sent to the Farm in Stonington, the number
of pages is not known. While sober tracts have
been mailed from last year, and less expression
of thanks received, some have seemed grateful
for them, and it is hoped that they may prove
as bread cast upon the waters.

George C. Foster, on behalf of the com.

which is approved, and this Meeting unites with
the Men's Meeting in the re-appointment of the
same Friends to serve in that capacity for the
ensuing year (with the exception of our dear friend
J. Barclay Foster deceased) Viz. George Foster, George
C. Foster, Job S. Gidley, James H. Tucker, Amos C.
Foster, Frederic C. Bugbee, George H. Gifford,
Arthur Perry, Mary K. Wood, Martha B. Huggins,
Elizabeth P. Foster, Anna H. Chase, Sarah K. Thel-
-ma, Elizabeth G. Wilbur, Emma A. F. Perry and
Anna D. Gardner.

We are constrained to acknowledge with grateful
hearts, the tender love and mercy of our Heavenly
Father which hath been vouchsafed to us, during
the several sittings of this Meeting, contriting
our hearts and enabling us to transact the business
which has claimed our attention, in love and unity.
Unmerited favors have been granted to us. Precious
counsel and instruction hath been given us, ad-
-monishing us to more faithfulness and dedication
of heart, and to a closer walk with God in the

1901. dience to His will. Fervent petitions have been put up for our preservation from the snares and allurements of an unwearied enemy of our soul's salvation.

Under a sense of the Lord's overshadowing presence we solemnly conclude, purposing to meet again at this place in the Sixth Month of next year, if consistent with the divine will.

Mary B. Gardner, Clerk.

To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Bowed under a sense of our own unworthiness and feeling unable of ourselves to do one good thing we have met together in this our annual meeting, earnestly desiring that the Lord of all rightly gathered assemblies may be with us, to own and overshadow us, for "as the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so is the Lord round about his people from henceforth even forever".

To be owned by the Good Shepherd is ever the humble cry, none are too small or weak to be gathered into His fold, so may we lift up our heads in hope and follow with confidence a crucified but risen Lord.

We realize that we come far short of His requirings and too many of us "are spending our years as a tale that is told", but we trust that at this time we have renewed our covenants with a covenant keeping God remembering "all the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenants and testimonies", and may this be an occasion with us of a re-dedication of heart; for saith the prophet "Hear, and your soul shall live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you even the sure mercies of David."

We have listened

1901. In the reading of your valuable epistle in connection with those from the other Yearly Meetings in correspondence with us, and have been cheered and encouraged by the sisterly affection manifested therein, and we acknowledge with thankfulness the loving care of our Heavenly Father for these manifold favors from our distant friends, strengthening year by year the bonds of love between us.

We have the company at this time of a goodly number of ministering friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose presence and affectionate counsel have been like brooks by the way and who, we believe, have been favored to hand forth "that which is both new and old" to the renewing of our faith and to the comfort of our hearts, and we desire that we may be led to "a closer walk with God," and through His help to an establishment upon that sure foundation Christ Jesus, for "except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh but in vain"

Our dear young people have been tenderly entreated to choose the Lord for their portion and to strive to heed His requirements however small, and we crave that they may make "peace through the blood of His cross by Him to reconcile all things to Himself." This is Life Eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

Thus, dear sisters, "let us give thanks unto the the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in Light".

With a salutation of love we bid you farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

1901. To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Such, Dear Sisters, has seemed the message from you to us, as it was read in the opening session of our annual gathering. The chain of correspondence which ties so closely bound us to the several sympathizing Yearly Meetings, greets us to day, strong and unburnished, cemented by that love which time or distance may not sever, and brightened by that steadfast allegiance to the cause of Truth which these bodies have been able to maintain. These lively epistles have each year comforted and encouraged us in our endeavors to hold on our way, amid increasing discouragements. And those commissioned to voice the appreciative sense of the meeting thereto, and should way open make further reply, have felt willing of our penury to cast into your treasury the little that we possess; if it is valued to you as an empty vessel, we desire you to remember it was when the prophets command "go borrow empty vessels not a few" was obeyed it came to pass the blessing was not stayed until all were filled. That same Omnipotent power, which through Elisha wrought such deviation from the known laws of nature, if rightly applied for through our Father and Teacher is, we believe, just as able now to fill unfurnished vessels for the gladdening of our Creators.

We are favored at this time with the company of dear friends from other Yearly Meetings, with minutes for service amongst us, and we have desired that the precious messages borne to us by these anointed ministers of our Lord might find a response in our every heart - not according to the letter only, but by the same spirit which has breathed them forth. The silent com-

1901. ...ouship and comforting presence of others, have cheered us, and bedokens the Lord that they also had an errand to perform, where to they have given heed.

While our members continue to decrease and our strength fails, we rejoice to note there is some indication of prosperity within your limits, which we trust will increase, as faith and obedience keep pace with His high calling.

Humbled by continued chastening, our hearts are filled with gratitude for unmerited blessings, and realizing that it is of more importance for us to be, individually, living "Epistles known and read of all men," than by any words which we may express to you in this way, we bid you farewell. In the same bond of love and affectionate regard, we remain your sisters

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Hicksite Friends.

Dear Sisters.

It is under a deep sense of our weakness, that we are again assembled to transact the business that may come before us as a Yearly Meeting. And we feel to crave that, as from time to time, from on whom we have depended for help to bear the burdens, are removed, we may be concerned to, more and more, place our dependence upon Him whose strength faileth not, and to know of an increase of our faith, even a deep and abiding faith, and trust in His power, patiently seeking to know His will concerning us, and for a willingness to render obedience thereto, humbly waiting for Divine guidance, for without these there will be no spiritual growth

1901. or advancement in the way of Life Eternal.

When at any time we are tempted to turn aside on the right-hand or on the left, may we be favored to hear a voice behind us, saying, "This is the way walk ye in it."

Our dear Sisters in other Yearly Meeting, although situated far from us, have been brought very near in Spirit, by affectionate epistles, tokens of loving recognition as members of one household of faith and children of one Father, so far as we are partakers unto Him. The precious words of encouragement which you were led to impart, are truly comforting, and we trust that the deep and heart-felt concern manifested by the craving of your hearts for our perfect walk in the light of His countenance, in which we may come to know that the work of righteousness is peace and the effect of righteousness is quietness and assurance forever," meets with a grateful response in the hearts of exercised ones amongst us, who desire to be found in our individual allotments, faithfully discharging the trust assigned us and improving the talent committed to our care.

Though some fall by one temptation and some by another, let us not be discouraged but press earnestly forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, for amidst all fluctuations, storms and tempests, "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His."

This is a state of mutability; it is therefore necessary we should be sensible that every outward gift is held by a slender thread. Let us then strive to become increasingly acquainted with that which never changes, but will endure beyond time, and know our treasure being in Heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt nor thieves break through and steal, for where our treasure is there

1901. will our hearts be also.

We have been favored at this time with the company of several Ministers from other Yearly Meetings, whose company and services have been refreshing to hungering and thirsting souls, also other dear and valued Friends, whose weighty and consistent deportment and instructive conversation has been profitable and encouraging.

In dear Love and unity of Spirit we remain your sincerely affectionate Sisters.
Signed on behalf of the meeting.
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters

We have again this year, through the mercy and loving kindness of our Heavenly Father, been permitted to meet in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, and enjoyed the reading of your epistle with those from all the Yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence; they have all been encouraging and strengthening to us in our weak and lowly condition, for we felt on assembling, that if possible our weakness, was even greater than ever before and the burthens almost more than we were able to bear and accomplish the business to the honor of the Great Head of the Church. But words of Christian love and encouragement often enable us to take up the battle of life with renewed strength, and help us, not only with things temporal but on our way heavenward, and may all, both with you and us, be helped to walk in the way of Truth and righteousness, and may our example be such that it may not be a reproach to our profession, for we feel that there is much want of true dedication of heart, and

1901. too great a tendency to walk in the ways of the world, also to follow the fashions thereof, which we believe will be but poor consolation when called to give up our stewardships and stand before the Just of all generations — in view of these things we can but query where are the standard bearers of the future? There seems so little inclination among the young people to walk in the straight and narrow way which leadeth unto life, we can but fear that the mantles of the exercised ones of the present day must fall to the ground. We have with us at this time several dear and valuable friends from distant Yearly Meetings, which has refreshed us with the belief that we are not forsaken by the Bishop of souls, inasmuch as He has sent His messengers to visit us in our low estate; much good counsel has been handed forth, line upon line and precept upon precept, — we have been reminded that "Obedience is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams," and the dear young people have been exhorted with to listen to the inspeaking word, becoming what their heavenly Father would have them to be, and faithful workers in His vineyard. May we all profit by listening to these gospel messages and take a little fresh courage to go on our way; for if we do not open our hearts to receive the blessings intended for us, the fault will be our own if we miss of the favors which might come to us.

And now dear Sisters we would commend you with ourselves to the care of Israel's unslumbering Shepherd, And may we all walk so closely to Him that there will be no possibility of stumbling by the way, but an entrance may be gained to that Holy City, even the heavenly Jerusalem, whose maker and builder God is.

With a salutation of love we bid you farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Ellen F. Gasaway, Clerk.

1901. To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters.

It hath pleased our Heavenly Father to permit our little company to assemble together once more as a Yearly Meeting, and in His tender love and mercy to own the little remnant thus gathered, and to manifest His living presence among us, by which we have been brought afresh to feel that the Everlasting Arms are underneath to support and sustain us.

The reading of your acceptable epistle, with those from other Yearly Meetings, has been to our edification and encouragement - bringing a precious feeling of unity and sympathy; our hearts have gone out to you in a degree of that love which spreadeth over sea and land. Separated by distance from each other, and thus prevented from mingling together, we feel that it is indeed a great privilege that those who are of like faith and practice, and striving to walk in the same path, can in this way commune with each other, and as ability is afforded encourage and strengthen the exercised ones to hold on their way, remembering that the Name and power of the Lord is, (as it ever has been) a strong tower into which the righteous may run and find safety.

May it be our individual concern to know the Master's will concerning us, and to yield in humble submission and obedience and obedience thereto. Careful not to run in our own wills, nor yet to shrink from required duty, patiently waiting upon the Lord that our strength may be renewed, and our way clearly made known, since he who makes haste may miss his way, and he who lingers too long behind, may lose his guide. Help is indeed laid upon One who is mighty, if we are but assembled before Him in true contrition of heart. "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." And again "Saith the Lord but to this man will I look even

1901. to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my word."

As our aged, and some of our most-concerned members are removed from works to rewards we are forcibly reminded of our weakness and unworthiness, and feelings of discouragement often prevail, yet at times a hope arises, and a grain of faith is renewed, that some of those to whom the invitation has again and again been extended, may no longer content themselves with excuses or hiding behind the shortcomings of others, but rise up and shake themselves from the dust of the earth, and casting behind all hindering things, seek to know a reconciliation with Him who judgeth righteously.

We are renewedly encouraged to believe that the Lord hath not forsaken us, but that He is yet mindful of our little remnant, in that His faithful and dedicated servants have been drawn to visit us in the love of the Gospel, and with a living concern for our growth and establishment in the everlasting truth, have been led to impart precious counsel and instruction, which we trust may be remembered to our profit; and we be thereby stimulated to more faithful obedience to Him who calls for the whole heart to be dedicated to His service. The cause is His and if we be faithful in our day, we shall be accepted of Him and He will care for the rest.

In loving and tender sympathy we bid you an affectionate farewell

Signed on behalf of the Meeting
Mary A. Gardner. Clerk.

1902. The New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westerly R. I. commencing with public meetings for worship on First-Day 15th of 6th month 1902 and on Second Day Morning the 16th for Discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed as representatives to this Meeting. Viz: From Rhode Island — Eliza F. Browning, Lydia J. Nichols, Martha B. Sheffield and Abby H. Gardner. — From Sandwich — Susanna W. Gidley Isabel L. Gifford and Elizabeth G. Wilbur, whose names being called are present - except - one, who was prevented from attending by illness.

One Quarterly Meeting reports the appointment of two Friends as caretakers, Viz: - Mary J. Foster and Anna A. Gardner, whose names being called are present.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs that they were united in the appointment of Abby H. Gardner and George E. Foster to the station of Elder.

Our dear Friend Henry J. Cutland is very acceptably in attendance of this Yearly Meeting, having a minute from Rich Square Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Cedar Grove, North Carolina 5th mo 9th 1902., expressing unity with his concern to attend this Yearly Meeting, also such other service amongst us as Truth may open the way for, Liberating and encouraging him to pursue his prospect under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit; he being a Minister with whom they have unity. Endorsed by Eastern Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Piney Woods, North Carolina 5th mo 31st 1902. His company and services are very satisfactory and encouraging to us and the Clerk is directed to sign a returning Minute on behalf of this meeting. We have received at this time very acceptable Epistles from all of the Yearly Meetings in our

1902. circle of correspondence, bringing precious words of loving and tender sympathy, as well as instructive counsel which have been read, much to our comfort and encouragement: We appoint - Abby W. Gardner, Mary J. Foster, Mary A. Gardner, Susanna W. Gidley and Sarah E. Mitchell to prepare essays & epistles to the several Yearly Meetings as way may open for it - and present them at a future sitting.

We have also received a valuable communication from our beloved Friend Elizabeth C. Cooper of West-Grove, Penna., which has been read and truly appreciated, and the feeling arises that we are yet remembered by our Heavenly Father in thus giving his dedicated and faithful servant - a message of love and counsel to this Yearly Meeting, and the Clerk is directed to write a personal letter to her expressing our appreciation.

Anna H. Chace, Susanna W. Gidley and Elizabeth F. Foster are appointed to prepare a summary from the answers to the Queries, and present it at our next sitting.

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting and agree upon the names of Friends to serve the Meeting as Clerks and report at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon.

We adjourn, to meet this afternoon at the hour Friends propose.

Afternoon near the 4th hour.

Friends again met.

Abby W. Gardner, on behalf of the representatives, informed the Meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing the reappointment of Mary A. Gardner for Clerk and Anna H. Chace for Assistant-Clerk. Their names being separately considered, are united with and they are accordingly appointed to the services.

1902. The several Queries succeeded by answers to each from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings have been read at this time, also a summary prepared therefrom, which is to be placed on record as follows, Viz.

Answer 1st. All our Meetings for religious worship and discipline have been held. There is apparent neglect on the part of some of our members in the attendance of week day meetings, and those for business. The hour is pretty well observed by most Friends. Some instances of sleeping. No other unbecoming behavior when assembled.

Answer 2nd. Love and unity we think in a good degree maintained. Detraction guarded against. No differences have been brought to our notice.

Answer 3rd. We believe that a concern is felt by some Friends that our testimonies may be maintained in regard to plainness of speech, behavior and apparel, also that pernicious reading and the corrupt conversation of the world may be avoided, but many deviations cause a feeling that more care and a deeper concern to be found faithful are needed on the part of others. We believe that the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends' families.

Answer 4th. Friends are careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine, do not unnecessarily frequent places of public resort, and keep in moderation on the occasions referred to.

Answer 5th. Those needing assistance have been received. No children placed from among Friends.

Answer 6th. There is want of care that proceedings with

1902. respect to marriage be conformable to discipline. Two cases of keeping company with prospect of marriage with those not members.

Answer 7th There are some of our members who at times attend Meetings where there is a paid ministry. We believe clear in the other parts of this query.

Answer 8th We think most Friends are careful in the several parts of this query, but feel that a want of care is manifested on the part of some to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answer 9th Records are attended to. — to remove without certificates.

Answer 10th We think that some Friends feel a concern that offenders should be dealt with according to discipline, but a deeper concern and more kindly attention is desirable. No dealing or placing of judgment since our last account.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the past year have been read and approved and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends, who are living, to constitute that body.

We have received at this time an acceptable communication from our dear friend Benjamin F. Brown of North Carolina, which has been read to our edification and comfort, and he is left at liberty to sign on behalf of the Meeting such acknowledgment as their Friends may prepare.

No further business coming before us at this time.

1902. we adjourn to meet again tomorrow at the Usual Men Friends propose.

Third day the 17th of the 9th mo. The third hour in the afternoon, Friends again met.

The names of the representatives being called, they are present except two.

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings have produced such addressed to Ohio, Western, Iowa, Kansas and Canada Yearly Meetings of Women Friends which have been read and approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them on behalf of this Meeting.

Our dear friend Ida K. Chamness, from Iowa Yearly Meeting is acceptably in attendance of this Yearly Meeting. Her company and labors in Gospel love, are very satisfactory to us.

We have received and read the report of the Book and Tract committee, as follows. Viz.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The distribution of Tracts has been continued since the last report; though not as many have been sent out, we think, as in some past years. The supply now on hand is small, which perhaps has prevented some from sending to public institutions as largely as heretofore, though a little has been done in that line including the sending of 780 pages of Tracts to the State Institutions at Providence, Rhode Island. Juvenile Tracts have also been distributed as way opened. One friend, not a member of the Committee, reports "having mailed 1,800 pages of Tracts to individuals, and sending 1,200 pages in letters hoping that some good seed may have been sown in

1902.

that way, yet not knowing which shall prosper this or that. We believe some members of the committee are diligent in the distribution of Tracts, while other members perhaps are neglectful in the service.

We have sent to Philadelphia the past year for a few Tracts and paid for the same from funds furnished by the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting. The committee will endeavor to get a new supply soon, so as to be better prepared to distribute them when way opens for it.

Signed

George C. Foster, in behalf of the committee.

which is satisfactory, and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends to serve in that capacity for the ensuing year.

It was in much weakness that we gathered as a Yearly Meeting, feeling poor and stripped, but we feel to acknowledge with humble thankfulness that we have not been left comfortless or entirely forsaken. In unmerited mercy the Lord hath been pleased to manifest His loving care over the workmanship of His hands, by sending His anointed servants to labor amongst us, dispensing the Bread and Water of Life freely, which we trust may not be forgotten or lightly esteemed, but when we separate and go to our homes, may be treasured in our hearts as precious favors.

The business which has come before us, having been accomplished in unity and harmony, we solemnly conclude, purposing to meet again at this place, in the Sixth month of next year if consistent with the Divine Will.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

1902. To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Trusting that even the few, if they are rightly gathered and truly depending upon the Shepherd of Israel, will be acknowledged by Him, we have again ventured to assemble as a Yearly Meeting, remembering that a willing mind is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not; and craving that the many discouragements and trials of our faith shall not hinder or lessen a deep concern and exercise of spirit for the welfare of Zion, and for an increase of little, lowly ones who are willing to stand forth for our principles and testimonies, and not allow mingling with the worlds people to weaken our firmness in upholding them both by precept and example, for if we do our influence is weakened, they seeing that we fail to practice what we profess to believe. In the early days of our Society, wherever there were faithful Friends who patiently and faithfully bore their testimony before the world, and in the face of all the opposition that could be brought to bear against them, they soon became as a city set upon a hill that could not be hid, and there was a gathering unto them of seeking souls. If there was the same faithfulness among us now, individually and collectively, in maintaining and upholding the same doctrines and testimonies, and by example and precept proclaiming them to the world, then would our lights so shine that others might again be drawn to us. But may we be preserved from endeavoring to increase our number, or to retain what we have, by lowering the standard of anti-Quakerism, to suit those who desire an easier way than that cast up for the ransomed and redeemed to walk in. Oh that there was more careful and

1902 prayerful watchfulness in the daily life and conversation, what a change would be wrought, and what joy and peace would would be the reward.

Truly there never was a time when these things were more necessary among us; but what a drifting away to the ways of the world, and shunning the cross, without which there is no crown. They that are faithful in the little shall be made rulers over more but they that despise the day of small things shall fall by little and little. We have been favored with the very acceptable company of a few friends from distant Yearly Meetings who felt drawn to visit in the love of the Gospel, our little remnant; we have also received two communications from beloved friends who felt concerned to address us with loving words of sympathy and counsel, which have strengthened and encouraged us. We have received very acceptable epistles from all the Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence encouraging us to faithful obedience and to put our trust in Him who hath promised to be with the two or three who are gathered in his name. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promises as some men count slackness, but is long suffering to usward not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." "Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

May the Lord watch over, keep, and direct us all.

In Love Farewell.

Signed, on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters.

With hearts touched, and tendered, and we

1902. humbly trust - drawn a little closer unto Him who hath in infinite wisdom, again and again lessened our number, our little remnant - hath again met together to transact the business which may come before us, craving that we may be preserved from a dependance upon ourselves or upon one another, but look alone unto that Power which never fails, and from time to time be favored to receive help from that Source, in whatever service we may render, that all may be done to His honor and praise & His everexcellent name. We have been comforted and instructed by the reading of your epistle, rich in words of loving sympathy, which we gratefully acknowledge, as also the favor of those from each yearly Meeting in correspondence with us. By such we are encouraged to faithfulness which is the way to prosper, and to renew life and strength.

Although we are weak and poor, the Lord will ever regard us with mercy whilst we regard Him with sincerity.

Oh that there were more evident - marks of simplicity among us, do not the requirements of our day draw the mind from under the cross? Is there not a danger in our becoming too generally intermingled with the manners and customs of the times? which prevents our being the plain unfashionable people that, if faithful, we should be.

Dear friends, it is a day in which we, as a Society, and each one of us as individuals, need to dwell very low, meekly and humbly at the Masters feet, patiently waiting until He shall bid us to arise and go forth in the ability that He shall give.

May the trials and discouragements which are permitted, bring us closer unto Him, even to feel "Though He slay me yet will I trust - in Him".

Some friends from distant Yearly Meetings are very acceptably with us, and precious and

1902. instructive counsel hath freely flowed, to our comfort and edification. Two dear Friends from distant Yearly Meetings were led to address Letters to this Yearly Meeting expressing tender sympathy and a deep concern for our growth and establishment in the ever blessed Truth, bearing evidence (to our encouragement) that we are still the objects of our Heavenly Father's care. The language of Him, who was touched with a feeling of our infirmities, is yet applicable to all His little ones, "Fear not little flock it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." May we earnestly strive to be of the little lowly ones.

With tender feelings of love and unity we bid you farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner. Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Once more through unmerited Mercy we have been permitted to meet in a Yearly Meeting capacity; knowing that of ourselves we can render no service worthy of the Master's Cause we are led to crave that we may feel the Everlasting Arm bared for our help and support in all needful times enabling us to do all that may be required at our hands, and make a way for us where there seemed to be no way.

We think we have evidence that we are had in remembrance by our Heavenly Father, for we have with us at this time several dear Friends from distant Yearly Meetings, who have left their homes and come to be with us to our comfort — much good counsel has been handed forth, we have been admonished to use the talents entrusted to us, as it was intended that we should use them by Him who alone

1902. These powers to us to be used for his glory — we were also tenderly entreated to render the first-fruits & the increase faithfully where it is due; with much more for our instruction, May we all take it to heart and profit thereby, bringing forth fruits meet for the Master's Kingdom. Yet of ourselves we cannot do this, but only as we are favored with Divine help, for, though Paul planted and Apollos watered, God gave the increase. We have been favored with the reading of your kind epistle, with those from all the Yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence. These sisterly greetings draw us more closely together in the bonds of Christian fellowship, and are an encouragement to us on our journey Zionward.

We have also received two communications from valued Friends who felt drawn to address us in the love of the Gospel, with words of loving sympathy and counsel, and we hope that the valuable instruction communicated may not have fallen upon barren ground but that it will take root downward and bear fruit upward worthy of the Great Husbandman.

We are many times brought low in our minds when we contemplate our stripped condition, yet we are not without a grain of faith that if Zion's cause is abode in, a few may be preserved who have not bowed the knee to Baal, and a remnant remain to stand for the principles for which our forefathers and mothers in the Truth suffered so much, not only enduring much bodily suffering on earth but even yielding their lives as a sacrifice, esteeming it a privilege to be found worthy to die for Christ's sake who suffered for us on the cross. We can express the same desires as you have done, that the dear young people might come forward and take up the fallen mantles of the dear Mothers in Israel who have been called from

1902. works to rewards, and would rejoice if it might be so — but the many worldly allurements which seem to surround them so closely evidently hinders the needful surrender of the whole heart and taking up the daily cross which gits us to walk in the straight and narrow way which leadeth unto Life Eternal.

With a salutation of love we are your sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Another year, dear Sisters, has passed away since we addressed you by way of epistolary correspondence, a year fraught with many trials and bereavements to many of us; and perhaps all of us realize more of the burden of this life as years multiply. This being the case, I pray we, when shadows lengthen learn more and more to cast our burdens upon the Lord, and not to slight the day of our visitation, or neglect to give heed to the witness for Truth in our own hearts. Let us, when cares and crosses throw over pathway endeavor to sit at the feet of the Saviour and learn of Him who was meek and lowly of heart; for, "He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength" Isa. 40 29.

Since last year several of our dear friends have entered into their everlasting inheritance; these we believe had not followed cunningly devised fables, but through the redeeming love and mercy of our Blessed Saviour they had a well grounded hope of an admission into the mansions of everlasting peace, "where the weary are at rest" and while we sorely miss them in our little company, we humbly trust the Father of mercies will pour out the oil and the wine in the hearts of the bereaved

1902. ones, and enable us in patience and resignation to hold on our way. The Lord's "Mercies are new every morning;" and "He doth not afflict willingly" "the children of men," but as a Father pitieth His children so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, for "He knoweth our frame; He remembereth we are dust". We have received your welcome Epistle of 10th month last, also one from each of the other Yearly Meetings in correspondence with us, and our hearts have been cheered and comforted for we feel they are calculated to stir up within us the pure mind by way of remembrance, and show that though far separated we are all of the same household of Faith, and desires are begotten in our hearts that none may grow weary in well doing, but that we should all strive to be faithful stewards and bearers, and not be discouraged, as was Elijah the prophet, when he cried unto the Lord, saying "They have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine alters, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left - and they seek my life to take it away." 1 Kings. 19-10.

We have at this time the company of some dear friends from away, whose labors of love, we trust, may not be as the "morning cloud and as the early dew that passeth away" and is lost; but may be as seed sown upon good ground, which shall spring up to the honor and glory of the Husbandman, and bring forth fruit, some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

Thus may we, with you, be encouraged to a greater faithfulness to the end, that we may rein Christ remembering the precious promise, "My grace is sufficient for thee".

We a salutation of love we are your sympathizing sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary D. Gardner, Clerk.

1902. To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

In sundry Epistles recorded in the Scriptures of Truth we know that this Method of communication was at that time extensively used to impart to different Churches or individuals such instruction as Divinely inspired Apostles felt was required. The object and character of these ministrations were varied. Tending to strengthen and encourage such as were struggling to discountenance certain heresies then prevailing to exhort them to continue steadfast in their adherence to the gospel. Firm in their belief that salvation was the free gift of God by and through Jesus Christ; and that every man, Jew as well as Gentile, was as equally in need of, as he was equally welcome to this salvation. Those divinely moved Epistles fulfilled the purpose for which they were expressly written, and have since served to confirm revelations made known in the secret of hearts seeking for spiritual light and freedom. With bowed hearts we would confess the gratitude which we feel because those valuable Epistles were left upon record for this and other generations. We also rejoice that the custom so freely exercised at that period has continued up to the present time. For we have been comforted by the reading of Epistolary greeting from several Yearly Meetings since the opening of our annual assembly. The reception of these messages of dear sympathy and love from distant Meetings has justly the attention of those to whom they were addressed; and they are united in an exercise of feeling which this reply is seeking to express. But other limitations are such that we can do little more than acknowledge the message, and testify our joy over your manifestation of sympathy and af-

1902. -tion, and if possible To stir up in you a like gladness of heart thereby making our own joy the more complete.

The past year has been marked with sadness by the death of dear and valued members, whose removal continues to be felt as a great loss To so small a company; but we know that even the prophets do not "live forever", and it is declared in Holy Writ that they could save "neither son nor daughter" if permitted To remain with us.

So that we are convincingly admonished to put our entire trust and confidence in Him who alone is able To save To the uttermost, and who has left us the comforting promise, "Lo, I am with you alway".

We gladly acknowledge the company and gospel services of a few dear friends from other parts (who have been favored to break bread in our midst) from the Fathers table, the very sweets of which have comforted our drooping spirits. We have been exhorted to strive to fill up our ranks in righteousness, and admonished that it is necessary for us To offer the first fruits of all our increase, unto the Lord if we would obtain that blessing, which the very least amongst us have felt To petition might rest upon this feeble little remnant.

Two communications from valued Ministers in other Yearly Meetings, whose sympathy has been awakened by a feeling sense of our stripped condition, have been received at this time, and we have been touched by the tender interest and love which they expressed. The counsel so kindly given, we desire may be heeded To our profit.

Dear friends it is under a humbling sense of our unworthiness of these and many other mercies, that we have addressed you, and in that sense we bid you an affectionate farewell, and remain your Sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

1903. The New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport, Rhode Island, commencing with public Meetings for worship on First-Day the 4th of 6th month 1903, and on Second Day Morning the 5th for Discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed representatives to this Meeting. From Rhode Island Lydia H. Nichols, Abby W. Gardner, Elizabeth P. Foster, and Mary J. Foster, from Sandwich Sarah E. Mitchell, Susanna W. Gidley and Elizabeth G. Wilbur, whose names being called, they are present.

One Quarterly Meeting reports the appointment of two Friends as care-takers, Viz. Mary J. Foster and Anna A. Gardner whose names being called are present.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting informs that they were united in approving the public appearances in the Ministry of Isabel T. Gifford, and also the appointment of George H. Gifford to the station of Elder.

Our beloved Friend Marianne T. Wood is very acceptably in attendance with us, having a Minute of unity and concurrence from Pickering Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Pickering Ontario, Canada 7th of 5th month 1903, liberating and encouraging her to pursue her concern to visit, in the Love of the Gospel, this Yearly Meeting and the Meetings composing it - also such other service as Truth may direct. She being a Minister in unity with them, endorsed by Yonge Street Four Months Meeting held at Yonge Street, Ontario, 30th of 5th month 1903. Her company and services are very satis

1903. Factory and strengthening to us, encouraging us to feel that we are yet favored with the Lord's tender and loving care. The clerk is directed to furnish her with a returning Minute, signed on behalf of this Meeting.

Very acceptable Epistles have been received, and read in this Meeting, from all the Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, and feelings of thankfulness arise that our Heavenly Father is thus mindful of us, in putting it into the hearts of our Sisters, who are mostly strangers as to the outward, to address to us precious and loving words of counsel and encouragement. The desire has been expressed that we may profit by them. Abby M. Gardner, Mary J. Foster, Elizabeth P. Foster, Sarah F. Wilbur, Mary A. Gardner and Susanna M. Gidley are appointed to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, as way may open for it and present them at a future sitting.

Our dear Friend Harvey H. Haight is very acceptably in attendance at this Yearly Meeting having a minute of unity and concurrence from Norwich Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Norwich, Ontario, Canada, 17th of 3rd month 1903. liberating him to pursue his concern to visit in Gospel love N. New England Yearly Meeting, the Meetings composing it and the families therein, he being a Minister in unity with them. Endorsed by Norwich Quarterly Meeting held 14th of 3rd month 1903. Also our dear Friend Samuel T. Haight with a minute from Norwich Monthly Meeting expressing unity with his prospect of accompanying Harvey H. Haight in his concern for religious service amongst us, he being a Friend with whom they have unity. The company and services of these Friends have been very comforting and strengthening, and we feel to appreciate the

1905. favor, being also in a measure sensible that our accountability is increased by all these favors so bountifully bestowed. The clerks are directed to sign returning Minutes for these Friends on behalf of this Meeting.

Susanna W. Gidley, Mary J. Foster, Abby W. Gardner and Jane C. Wood are appointed to prepare a Summary from the answers to the Queries and present it at our next sitting.

The representatives are desired to confer together at the close of this sitting and agree upon the names of Friends to serve this Meeting as Clerks, and report at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon.

We adjourn until the hour when Friends propose this afternoon.

Afternoon, and the 4th hour Friends again met.

Elizabeth F. Foster, on behalf of the representatives informed the Meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing the name of Mary A. Gardner for Clerk, and that of Elizabeth B. Wilbur for Assistant Clerk, which, being separately considered are united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services.

The several queries followed by answers to each from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings have been read at this time, also a summary prepared therefrom, which is to be placed on record. Viz.

Answer First. All our Meetings for religious worship and those for Discipline have been held, with two exceptions for the year. One meeting

1905. was omitted on account of a funeral, and the other on account of inclement weather. The meetings on First-Days are generally attended by most of our members when Health permits, but week-day meetings and some of the business meetings are neglected by some members. The hour is generally pretty well observed by most Friends. Some give way to sleep. Other undecorning behavior clear when assembled.

Answer Second.— Love and unity are, we believe, chiefly maintained. We think dissention is guarded against in a good degree. No differences have been brought to our notice.

Answer Third. We think that a care and concern of mind still rest with some Friends amongst us, that our Testimonies, in regard to plainness of speech, behavior and apparel, be maintained as required by Discipline, also that pernicious reading and the corrupt conversation of the world be avoided. Some are good examples therein themselves, but the many deviations apparent amongst us, cause us to feel that more care, and a deeper concern to be found faithful, are wanting on the part of others.
We think that the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friend's families.

Answer Fourth.— We think that the use of spirituous liquors is avoided by Friends except for medicine, also the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, and that Friends keep in moderation and temperance on most occasions.

Answer Fifth.— When assistance is needed care

1903. is taken. No children placed from among Friends.

Answer Sixth.- More care is needful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to Discipline. One case of keeping company with prospect of marriage, with one not a member with us.

Answer Seventh Some of our members at times attend meetings where there is a paid ministry. We think clear in the other parts of this query.

Answer Eighth.- We believe Friends are careful in the several parts of this query.

Answer Ninth. Careful as to records. One removal without certificate.

Answer Tenth. We believe that some Friends amongst us are concerned that our ancient Testimonies should be maintained as Discipline requires, but the many hindering things of the present-day seem to be in the way of a deeper concern, and more lively attention in dealing with offenders would be desirable. No instance of dealing or placing of judgment since our last account.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the past year have been read and approved and this Meeting unites with the Mens Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends (with the exception of our dear Friend Jesse Tucker, deceased) to constitute that body for the year ensuing Viz:- George Foster, Jonathan Peace, Amos C. Foster, George C. Foster, Charles Perry, Mary A. Gardner,

1903. Anna H. Chase, Lydia H. Nichols, James H. Tucker, Ida D. Fidler, John J. Wilbur George H. Gifford, Sarah H. Wilbur and Susanna W. Fidler.

To further business coming before us at this time we adjourn to the time for morrow that when Friends pro pose.

Third day, the 16th of the month, near the third hour in the afternoon Friends again met:

The names of the representatives being called, they are all present.

The committee, appointed at a previous sitting to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, have produced such, addressed to Canada, Ohio, Western, Iowa and Kansas Yearly Meetings of Women Friends, which have been read and approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign, and forward them on behalf of the Meeting.

We have received and read the report of the Book and Tract-Committee, which is as follows,

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting;

A considerable number of tracts have been distributed during the past year; in some cases they have been gratefully acknowledged, in others nothing is heard from them, and we can only hope that they have been a means of good in some instances at least.

Two members of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, who are not members of the Tract-Committee, report having distributed 4162 pages in the following manner, 986 pages in letters, 306 pages by mail to different individuals, 1000 pages to State Institutions in Rhode Island, and 1000 pages to St. Lukes Hospital in New Bedford Mass., also sent by mail. 500 pages placed in box for Rhode Island Hospital, 380 pages sent in packages to the Home for the

1903.

Friendless in New York City. Others, members of the Committee, have circulated some in the vicinity of Westerly. One Friend having mailed a considerable number to a distant State to circulate among Friends, has in some cases received replies which indicated that they were gratefully received and appreciated and good might result from reading such tracts.

Signed,
On behalf of the Committee,
George C. Foster.

which is satisfactory and this meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in continuing the same Friends as a committee and we feel to encourage them to faithfulness in the work. Viz: George Foster, George C. Foster, Job S. Gidley, James H. Taber, Amos C. Foster, Frederic C. Bullum, Arthur Perry, Martha B. Sheffield, Anna H. Chace, Elizabeth A. Foster, Sarah H. Wilbur, Elizabeth G. Wilbur, Emma A. H. Perry, Anna A. Gardner and George A. Gifford.

We have had at this Yearly Meeting the acceptable company of some dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings, who felt to be with us, and we have been cheered and comforted by their presence, and the kindly interest, and tender sympathy and encouragement, manifested and expressed for us in our stripped and bereaved condition, has given us fresh strength to hold on our way.

The business which has come before us having been completed, in unity and harmony, we feel constrained to acknowledge with grateful tears that the Shepherd of Israel hath been pleased in unmerited mercy to overshadow our little Meetings from time to time with a manifestation of His blessed presence, tendering our hearts and humbling us with feelings of our unworthiness.

Under a sense of which we

1903.

reverently conclude purposing to meet again at this place in the Sixth Month next year, if consistent with our Heavenly Fathers Will.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Friends

Through the merciful condescension of Creator, we have been once more permitted to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting. We must acknowledge that we came together in much weakness and poverty of spirit, and with the feeling of inability to do of ourselves, one good thing, yet with a grain of trust that, with the assistance of Him who condescends to be our Helper in time of need, hard things might be made easy and the affairs of the Church conducted to the honor of his name. While few in number, we, as you mentioned, may remember that the promise is to the two or three who may be rightly gathered to perform true worship, that the Father will be with them.

Several Friends from other Yearly Meetings are very acceptably with us at this time, including Ministers from your Yearly Meeting. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father that He put it into the hearts of his servants to leave their distant homes and visit us in the love of the Gospel. We humbly take it as an evidence that we are yet held in remembrance. May we truly profit by the labors bestowed. Earnest prayers have been offered for our advancement in the way of truth and righteousness; advice and exhortation have flowed from the lips of His dedicated servants and handmaidens. May the ground on which the seed has fallen not prove sterile; may the seed take root downward and bear fruit upward, fit for the Masters Kingdom.

Your Epistle, together with those from all the Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, has been

1903. received; all were acceptable and [illegible] joyful greetings from our distant Sisters. They come as bonds of Christian love and sympathy which tend to strengthen us on our way, and give us more courage to walk in the paths which lie before us. There are many trials to be met and overcome by those who are endeavoring to lead a consistent Christian life and become useful members of our Church militant, also many fiery trials must be endured, the cross faithfully borne, self laid in the dust and our robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb before going down into the depths of Jordan to cross over to the Church triumphant, possibly to be allowed to occupy one of the lowest of the many Mansions, promised to those who have fought the good fight and come off victorious. There seems in the present-day much reluctance to taking up the daily cross, but if we will not bear the cross we cannot expect to wear the crown, and if we deny our Saviour now we may expect to hear at the end of time that He knows us not. Oh how awful would such a sentence be, and may all be persuaded to look well to their spiritual condition before it is forever too late. With a salutation of love we are your friends.

Signed on behalf of the meeting

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters

Once more permitted to meet together as a Yearly Meeting, we feel to address you, not only to gratefully acknowledge the loving and tender sympathy, and precious words of encouragement, contained in your very acceptable Epistle of 10th mo last but in a measure of that love, by which we are made not only to mourn with those that mourn and weep with those that weep, but also to rejoice with

1903. those that rejoice, we do feel to deeply sympathize with you in the loss of valued and earnestly concerned members who have been removed from works to rewards, and also to rejoice that you are encouraged by quite a number of your young members manifesting a willingness to bear the yoke in their youth, which is truly a means of strengthening the hands of the older friends; and it is upon the younger members that the labors and burdens soon must rest. That they may submit more and more to be gifted and prepared for the Master's service, is the concern and travail of exercised hearts among us.

Were the professors of the blessed Truth, more generally redeemed from the spirit and friendship of the world, and did they live and appear, more conformable to their profession, Light would spread, and Truth prosper more. Where the spirit of the world prevails, which ever was, and ever will be at enmity with the Father, the upright in heart are caused to bear heavier burdens. There is a place and lot for every one, and however small and scattered we feel ourselves to be, there is comfort in the promise, that God is no respecter of persons, all they that truly fear and obey Him will be accepted. May we all be encouraged to trust in the Lord, and be faithful in our day, that we may be as lights to the world, and by our humble and consistent walking, be instrumental to gather people to the name of the Lord. Then shall we realize that there is no true peace like that which the Master gives as a reward for faithfulness. We have been favored with the very acceptable company of several dear friends, ministers and others from distant Yearly Meetings, and words of counsel, admonition and encouragement have been handed forth, in Gospel Love and power to our instruction and edification, helping us in our

1903. weakness and strengthening us in the faith, while we have been cheered and comforted by the sympathizing presence of others. And with loving and tender greetings from all the Yearly Meetings to which we are thus united as of the same household of faith, we are afresh caused to feel that our Heavenly Father is yet mindful of us, tenderly and earnestly pleading, through His faithful and dedicated servants and handmaidens, that we may be more and more concerned to be faithful and obedient.

In much love and near unity of spirit,
We bid you an affectionate farewell.
Signed on behalf of the meeting
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Your valuable Epistle, addressed in love to our Yearly Meeting now in session, has been read, and a concern felt that way might open for some suitable acknowledgement of this kindly greeting and earnest solicitude on our behalf — a reply which may convey the warm interest which these sisterly messages from you has begotten in us and at the same time acquaint you more fully with our situation which as the years go by has become sadly discouraging. So many of the pillars of our Church militant have been removed to the Church triumphant, that we have left only a frail framework, with few supports to keep it from falling when the test comes. But we know that the foundation stone upon which the feeble structure rests, remains firm and secure as when our worthy predecessors built upon it centuries ago, and upheld up their valuable lives rather than depart from the groundwork of their belief.

1903. As fortunate inheritors of their well founded faith and trust, we could not escape the grave responsibilities entailed therewith, and expect to receive the same Divine favor bestowed upon them in return for their faithful and undaunted allegiance to the cause of Truth. When we remember our many shortcomings, and how few tithes we are bringing into the Storehouse, we are humbled by contrition for continued mercies; being afresh admonished that we of this generation must also take up the cross daily or lose the promised Crown. So, pleading for strength to meet all that may be required at our hands, we are desiring to run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the Author and finisher of our faith "for all consolation and comfort, as we still have the encouraging promise that He will make intercession for transgressors who are sufficiently humbled to bow before Him in true humility.

We feel much favored by the company of a few dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings. Some of whom came to offer their Morning, and some their evening sacrifice upon the altar of obedience in our midst and some to strengthen us by their silent presence. For all these blessings we desire to give thanks unto the dear Master of all rightly gathered assemblies.

And remain your Sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters.

We have once more met in a Yearly Meeting capacity, and as we came together in much discouragement, and with divers trials, both

1903. from within and without, our earnest petition hath arisen to the God of Jacob that He will be strength in weakness, riches in poverty and a present help in every needful time"; and that our drooping spirits shall be refreshed, as it were, with the "dew of Hermon", and our spiritual life be renewed, and we grow in grace, until "when Christ who is our life shall appear."

From year to year as we meet our hearts are saddened by the losses sustained in the removal by death of our dear aged ones, who were concerned to uphold the ancient principles and testimonies of our beloved society, and while we feel unable to transact the affairs of the church without the help of these eminent worthies, who so long have borne the burden and heat of the day, yet we should not be too much discouraged because of their loss, but endeavor to be more faithful ourselves, as the years pass by, and be stimulated to walk by the same rule, and mind the same thing, in our daily lives, as they did, thereby to become better qualified to take up their work. How necessary therefore that we abide in the vine, that we may know God to be our refuge and strength, for "he that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Saith the Psalmist, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him." But alas! too often our souls' enemy with the chaff, the world chokes the seed of the Kingdom and the who strives to gather up the tares, roots up the good wheat also. Matt. 13.29.

Our hearts are made to rejoice in listening to the reading of your Epistle fraught with Christian love and sympathy, and ever closer may these greetings unite us in the bonds of christian fellow-

1903. ships; and fervent desires have arisen both for you and ourselves that the Lord will preserve our going out and our coming in from His time forth even forever more. Malachai 3.16. Dedicated servants of the Most High have come from distant parts to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ's Kingdom, "and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." We have had line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, and how great will be our condemnation if we refuse the offers of redeeming love, and to accept the Lord for our portion and the God of Jacob for the lot of our inheritance. "With the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption." Ps. cxxx.7.

May the God of love and peace be with you all.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

Mary A Gardner, Clerk.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Your very welcome letter of sisterly love and counsel has been received and read in our meeting, warming our hearts toward you. And we trust your advice may find good ground in us, and spring up and bear fruit. We do feel that our merciful Heavenly Father, our Father and your Father, has given you a message for us. And so our hearts are lifted up in praise and thanksgiving to Him who has thus remembered us in our bereaved and tried condition. The cry, "Help Lord or we perish" has rung in our hearts, but now we can praise Him, even in our weakness, for He has, we feel, been with us during our sittings, and has given us a measure of His peace. Oh! that He may draw us individually, near to Himself, and that we may seek bow our hearts at His footstool.

1903. That we may lay ourselves, and all that we are, and all that we have, before Him, at His feet, ready to do His perfect will, and ready to hear when He speaks to us with His still small voice. Why should we be afraid to do His will? Does He not say to us, as to Israel of old, "I will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not for I am with thee"? Let us rather fear lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest" any of us should seem to come short of it.

May you and we all "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We have with us, dear servants of the Lord, from other Yearly Meetings, and through His spirit they have spoken to our inmost hearts, and we have felt His love to overshadow us. In that love which flows from Him, we all salute you, greeting them that love us, in the faith.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,
Mary H. Gardner, Clerk.

1904.

At a New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westerly Rhode Island, Commencing with public Meetings for worship on First Day the 12th of 6th Month 1904, and on Second Day morning, the 13th for Discipline.

Accounts are present from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed representatives to this Meeting.

From Rhode Island Abby H. Gardner
Elizabeth P. Foster, Martha B. Sheffield

1904. Mary J. Foster. From Sandwich Sarah E. Mitchell and Susanna W. Gidley. whose names being called they were all present.

One Quarterly Meeting reports the appointment of two Friends as Caretakers. Viz Mary J. Foster and Anna A. Gardner. whose names being called they are present.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting informs, that they were united in the appointment of Sarah E. Mitchell and Susanna W. Gidley to the Station of Elder.

Our Beloved Friend Eliza H. Varney is very acceptably in attendance with us having a Minute of unity and concurrence from West-Lake Monthly Meeting of Men and Women Friends held at Woodfield, Canada, 3rd month 19th 1904. Liberating her to visit in Gospel love Friends of New England Yearly Meeting held at Westerly R. I., and to attend the Meetings composing it, also such other service as may be required at her hands. She being a Minister in unity with them. Her company and services are very satisfactory to us, and as we gratefully appreciate the favor, feelings of thankfulness arise to our Heavenly Father for His continued mercy, and loving care over us. We sincerely desire that we may profit thereby.

The Clerk is directed to furnish her with a copy of this minute signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Our dear Friend Benjamin P. Brown is very acceptably in attendance with us, having a Minute of unity and concurrence from Rich Square Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Rich Square Northampton Co. North Caro-

1904. Minute liberating and encouraging them in the prospect of attending New England Yearly Meeting held at Westerly, R. I. He being a Minister with whom they have unity, endorsed by Eastern Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Piney Woods in Perquimans Co. North Carolina.

Our dear Friend Jonathan E. Woods is also very acceptably in attendance with us having a Minute of unity and approval from Wilmington Monthly Meeting of Friends, Delaware held 6th month 9th 1904. Liberating him to visit the Gospel Love and service the Yearly Meeting of Friends of New England held at Westerly, R. I. and the Meetings composing it. He being a Minister in unity with them.

The company & services of these dear Friends are very satisfactory and and encouraging to us, strengthening us in a belief that we are not forsaken by the Lord of the Vineyard, weak and unworthy as we feel ourselves to be of his notice. The Clerk is directed to sign returning minutes for them on behalf of this Meeting.

We have received and read at this time very welcome Epistles from all of the Yearly Meetings in our Circle of Correspondence. The loving interest and sympathy of our dear Sisters has tendered our hearts, and the precious counsel and instruction meets with a feeling of unity and fellowship & Spirit, and we trust it will not be lightly esteemed, nor soon forgotten. We appoint Abby M. Gardner, Susanna M. Gidley, Elizabeth E. Foster, Mary A. Gardner and Mary J. Foster a committee to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, as way may open, and

1904. present them at a future sitting.

We appoint Susanna W. Gidley, Jane C. Chace and Martha B. Sheffield to prepare a summary from the answers to the queries and present it at our next sitting.

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting and agree upon the names of Friends to serve the Meeting as Clerks.

We adjourn to the hour this afternoon that Men Friends propose.

Afternoon, near the 4th hour Friends again met.

Abby H. Gardner, on behalf of the representatives, informed the Meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing the name of Mary A. Gardner for Clerk, and that of Elizabeth G. Wilbur for Assistant-Clerk, which, being separately considered, are united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the past year have been read and approved, and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends to that service, with the addition of Jesse R. Tucker.
Viz. Jonathan Chace, Amos A. Foster, George C. Foster, Charles Perry, Mary A. Gardner, Anna R. Chace, Lydia F. Nichols, James H. Tucker, Jos. S. Gidley, John J. Wilbur, George H. Gifford, Sarah F. Wilbur, Susanna W. Gidley and Jesse R. Tucker.

The several queries, followed by answers to each

1901 from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings have been read at this time, also a summary prepared therefrom which is to be placed on the record.

Viz.

Answer First — All our Meetings for religious worship and discipline have been held except one for worship, which was omitted on account of a severe storm. An improvement is noted in the report of the attendance of midweek meetings.

The Hour is well observed. Clear of sleep or other unbecoming behavior.

Answer Second — Love and unity are in a good degree maintained and detraction guarded against. No differences have been brought to our notice.

Answer Third — Some Friends have a concern to bring up those under their direction in plainness of speech, behavior and apparel, to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation, also to be good examples therein themselves; yet more care in these respects is needed. We believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends families.

Answer Fourth — Friends are careful in regard to the use of spirituous liquors, other than for medicine. Places of public resort generally avoided and moderation observed on the occasions referred to.

Answer Fifth — When assistance is needed, care is taken. Children freely partake of learning. None placed from among Friends.

Answer Sixth — Some want of care apparent in proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable

1904. To our discipline.

Answer Seventh — There are some of our members who, at times, attend meetings where there is a paid ministry. We believe clear in the other parts of this query.

Answer Eighth — We think Friends are careful in the several parts of this query.

Answer Ninth — Records are attended to.
No removals without certificate.

Answer Tenth — Friends feel a concern to observe the requirements of this query, but way has not opened for dealing and no judgment has been passed since our last account.

No further business presenting at this time we adjourn to meet at the usual time tomorrow that with Friends propose.

Third day, the 14th of the month, near the third hour in the afternoon, Friends again met.

The names of the representatives being called they are all present.

The committee appointed at a previous session to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings have produced such, which have been read and approved, and the clerk is directed to sign and forward them (to Canada, Ohio, Western, Iowa and Kansas Yearly Meetings of Women Friends) on behalf of this Meeting.

Men Friends have prepared an Epistle addressed to "All those Friends in North Carolina who are

1904. striving to maintain our principles in their ancient truth and purity," which has been read and united with by this Meeting, and the Clerk is directed to sign the same on its behalf.

We feel much sympathy for those dear Friends in their feeble state, and earnestly crave that they may be enabled to stand faithful in maintaining our precious principles and testimonies in their ancient purity. "Holding fast that which they have, that no man take their crown".

We have received and read the report of the Book and Tract Committee, as follows Viz.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

Attention has been given to the distribution of tracts the past year, though not so large a number was spread by some individuals as in some former years, but we hope those which have gone forth may have proved useful.

Fifteen hundred pages were sent in parcels to the Town Asylum in Stonington and to the Home for the Friendless in New York City.

Two Hundred pages were placed in a box for use in the Rhode Island Hospital in Providence.

One book and a number of Juvenile tracts have been handed to several children of the Roman Catholic denomination which were gratefully received by the children and spoken to with commendation by parents and teachers.

Quite a number of tracts & both kinds have also been sent or handed to different people as opportunity offered; and at different times Friends have been gratefully impressed. One Friend has circulated a considerable number of juvenile books among children, which have been eagerly sought after, and very gratefully received among the Meth-

1904. Sales. There has been quite a quantity of books and tracts ordered from Friends' Book Store, Philadelphia, which have been paid for by the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting and some of which have been placed in public Libraries.

Very respectfully
George C. Foster
On behalf of the Committee.

Which is satisfactory, and this Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in continuing the same Friends in that service, Viz. George C. Foster, Wm S. Gidley, James H. Tucker, Amos O. Foster, Frederic C. Huffman, Arthur Perry, Martha B. Sheffield, Anna H. Hale, Elizabeth P. Foster, Sarah F. Wilbur, Elizabeth G. Wilbur, Emma M. F. Perry, Anna A. Gardner and George H. Gifford, encouraging them to diligence and faithfulness in their work, which may be as bread cast upon the waters and found after many days.

Our dear Friends William Evans and Thomas C. Hogue from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting have been very acceptably in attendance at this Yearly Meeting. Their solid deportment has been edifying and instructive, and their interest and sympathy very encouraging to us.

Although our little company gathered this year under feelings of much weakness and a sense of our stripped and lonely condition, yet we have to acknowledge, with humble thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, the precious and unmerited blessings and favors which have been so abundantly showered upon us; and under a sense of His overshadowing love and mercy vouchsafed to us,

1904. we solemnly come here, purposing to meet again at this place in the sixth month next year if consistent with the Divine Will.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters.

Once more a year has rolled away and the time arrived for us to assemble as a Yearly Meeting, and while it seemed almost more than we should be able to accomplish to the honor of Truth, we have, through adorable mercy been helped over the hard places and enabled to transact the business which has come before us, in unity and Christian condescension. And may we give the praise to Him to whom alone it is due, realizing that of ourselves we are nothing, and be willing to sit in low places, until we are fitted for a higher and nearer service by Him, who said, "Behold I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me." "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Oh! that all may be willing to submit to the preparing Hand and become refined and fitted for the work we are called to perform, to be as clay in the hands of the potter, and be moulded according to His will.

Several Friends from other Yearly Meetings, including one from Canada, are with us, to our encouragement and edification.

Our drooping spirits have been comforted

1904. by the counsel and admonition which has been permitted to flow from the lips of dedicated servants and handmaidens. We cannot but believe that we are still held in remembrance by our merciful Heavenly Father, since He has sent so many dear Friends to be with us at this time.

Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence have been read to our edification and instruction. May we profit by their helpful admonitions and advice handed forth to us. If each one of us would individually do their part, and shrink from duties which should be done, it would lighten the burdens of the few who cannot be released from the labors which they deem to be called for at their hands.

And while we are few in number, may we still have courage to keep faithfully on our way. For we have been reminded that "One shall chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight," if we are faithful and heed the still small voice in our every heart.

In Gospel love we bid you an affectionate farewell, and remain your sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Although far separated, outwardly, from us, you are brought near to us in spirit as the very acceptable epistle from your East Yearly Meeting is before us, and we feel to acknowledge with gratitude the measure of love in which you were drawn to address our little remnant, and we trust that

1904.

intercourse, prompted by loving interest & precious feelings & sympathy, will not be confined, but will reciprocally bind us closer together, and strengthen the bonds of unity and Christian fellowship between us.

We truly mourn with you in the loss you have sustained by the removal & beloved and valued members from works to rewards, they having been taken from the Church Militant, to join the Church Triumphant, and especially our dear friend who had endeared herself to us also. But what a precious and comforting assurance that the loss to us, is to them everlasting gain.

These faithful servants having done their day's work in the daytime are gathered to their reward, & rest and peace forevermore, and we a little longer spared to do the work which the dear Master assigns to us, to fill up our measure & service or & suffering for the blessed cause & Truth and Righteousness on the earth. Oh, may we all be diligent, watching unto prayer that we may be prepared, and enabled to do His bidding, and to be just what He would have us to be. Our Heavenly Father has not failed in one & His promises when we do our part faithfully.

May we and you be encouraged to keep close to the Good Shepherd who putteth forth His own sheep and goeth before them, abundantly caring for all who put their trust in Him, and are obedient to His will. "His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children to such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them."

It was with feelings & tenderness and

1904. with some of us almost discouragement, that we looked forward to this our Annual Assembly, being sensible of our weakness, and the loss of the dear and worthy members to whom we have looked for counsel and who long bore the burdens which now fall heavily upon the few who are left. But we have been cheered and comforted by the company of a few dear friends from a distance, whose loving sympathy, and labors in the love of the Gospel for our instruction, and advancement in the deeper and faithfulness, have strengthened us and encouraged us to strive more and more to know of our days work keeping pace with the day, and to put our whole trust in the alone true source of help, which never fails or leads astray, but if slightly sought, will be "strength in weakness, riches in poverty, and a present help in every needful time."

We have through favor been enabled to transact the business which has come before us in love and unity.

And now, in closing, we would commend you, with ourselves, to the care of Him, without whose notice not even a sparrow falls to the ground.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary H. Gardner. Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters;

Your kind letter of sisterly love and solicitude for us, has been read in our hearing, and our hearts are melted into love towards you, and thankfulness to our Heavenly Father that he has raised up for us such

1904 -sters in the Truth as we believe you to be.

We feel our unworthiness, and our inability of ourselves to do any good thing, but we are encouraged by your admonition to "hold fast that which we already have, and to remember that the race is not to the swift - or the battle to the strong." So we shall endeavor to dedicate ourselves anew to the service of the Lord, feeling that He will, as He has promised, lead on step by step those who trust in Him and seek the Truth & His Truth for which we are to seek, for Pennington says "The ancient principle & Truth is that Light - which shineth from God in the heart, wherein God is near to them, and wherein and whereby they may seek God, and find Him." May we all, both young and older, seek after God in that Light, which he gives to each of us according to our need. Thus seeking we shall find Him. How must we lift our hearts in thankfulness and praise to God who has given each of us a portion of His own Spirit, to lead us in the path of safety and of peace. We are as you know few in number, and as one after another of our older friends, on whom we have leaned, perhaps too much, are called from us, we feel stripped and depressed.

We need to be reminded of all we have had done for us, and that our strength does not lie in numbers, but "cometh from the Lord who made Heaven and earth." May He enable us to lift up our eyes unto Him and to seek no other help than His. And may we all by our close and closer following of our blessed Saviour, come to live more together in His Spirit. We have received epistles from all the Yearly Meetings with

1902. which we correspond, and much satisfaction has been expressed upon their reading. This communion with our distant Sisters is very precious to us, and we trust it may continue and be more and more helpful to us all.

We have with us dear servants of the Lord, whom He has sent to labor in this part of His church. Their company and services in the cause of Christ, have comforted us, and we have listened to words of exhortation which have sunk deep into our hearts, and we trust we may profit thereby.

Robert Barclay says, "Blessed be the Lord that has brought us to the knowledge of this kind of love and friendship, which standeth in that which is more excellent than aught in the world even in the Truth itself."

And now dear Sisters, in a measure of that love and friendship we bid you

Farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters;

We have again been cheered in our lonely and stripped condition by precious greetings from all of the Yearly Meetings to which we are thus united as of the same household of faith, and with grateful hearts we appreciate the tender sympathy and affectionate interest manifested, also words

1904. & instructive and valued counsel, which have strengthened exercised hearts and the hands which are sometimes almost ready to hang down, under a sense of our weakness and unworthiness. We have remembered that the Captain of our souls salvation was made perfect through suffering and if we would reign with Christ we must first be willing to suffer with him. It is when we see & feel our weakness, and that we have no power or might of our own, that we are led to draw near to God, seeking for strength from him "who giveth power to the faint and to them that have no might increaseth strength."

As we are favored to become sensible of our whole dependence upon him we shall be made willing to wait in patience for the arising of Divine Light in our souls, showing us the way in which we should walk, and if we abide steadfast under the refining hand of the Lord, patiently bearing all the deep provings that may be required to establish our faith, we shall be "made more than conquerors through him that loved us," and to rejoice that we are found worthy to suffer for his sake. Many are the temptations and allurements that an unwearied adversary places in our paths to lead us astray. May we be favored by close watchfulness to walk so near to our Heavenly Guide and Leader, that when we turn to the right hand or to the left, we may be able to hear his voice behind us saying, "This is the way walk ye in it."

Let us not be weary in well doing for the promise is that in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

1904. May patience have its perfect work, and may the faith once delivered to the saints be steadily maintained and boldly contended for - when its blessed Author leads into the field - the armor kept on in brightness, waiting the word of command to go forth as to Edrei of old, then we have nothing to fear

We feel to rejoice with you in the favors granted at your annual gathering by the Company and services of the Christ's dedicated servants, and we truly hope that the seed sown has brought forth fruit to his honor and praise.

We acknowledge with gratitude that we have been favored at this yearly Meeting with the very acceptable company of dear Friends from distant parts who felt drawn to be with us, and to labor in gospel love to our edification and encouragement, and, we sincerely trust to our profit. The reward of peace for faithful obedience is sure and they will no doubt be permitted to return to their homes bearing precious sheaves.

In dear love and unity of spirit we bid you farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary F. Gardner, Clerk.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Friends.

A few - a very few have again assembled in much poverty of spirit endeavoring to transact the affairs of the Church with dignity and in good order but surely never before have we come together so deeply realized in such a degree how frail we are,

1904. and undeserving any good thing, and our tried hearts sank like the Psalmist, he was made to exclaim "Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."

Fathers and Mothers from among us are year by year gathered into everlasting rest, and we are led to inquire who will arise to wear the mantles of the departed worthies, who with faith, and in faithfulness in their Master's service, bore the burdens allotted to each, as became valiant-standard bearers in our Israel, and then laid down their heads in peace. To us who remain may their pious examples, their wisdom and prudence be remembered, and be an influence for good yet in ever widening circles in all time to come. But to depend on our worthy ancestors or faithful friends will avail us nothing. We must work out our own salvation, bear our own burdens, submit ourselves to the cross of Christ - as becometh humble followers of Him

Phil 1-7. and partakers of His grace.

Epistles have been received from the different Yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence, and during the reading of them a feeling of warm fraternal love has flowed forth, towards you in an especial manner, and we desire that the stream may never diminish or grow cold, but as members of the same household of faith we may from time to time exchange messages of love and sympathy that may stir up the pure mind by way of remembrance, and encourage one another to greater faithfulness, and to a closer

1904. walk with God, to be watchful, and with the love that "hopeth all things and endureth all things" strengthen the things that remain that are ready to die. Behold we count them happy which endure" wrote the Apostle James, and "he that shall endure to the end the same shall be saved" said Jesus to his disciples on the Mount of Olives, therefore may we be found upon the watchtower that the enemy may not prevail against us, but that we may each day do our full duty and follow after righteousness that "no man take our crown"

Although we feel ourselves to be the least in our Father's house, yet as has been expressed in our Meeting, we are still regarded by him in tender mercy, in that he hath sent some of his worthy servants in gospel love to sit with us, and their sweet counsel and loving exercises have been times of refreshing as from the presence of the Lord. May their labors be treasured up in good and honest hearts and accomplish that whereto it was sent.

"Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

In love farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner. Clerk.

1905. At New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westerly Rhode Island, Commencing with Public Meetings for Worship on First Day the 11th of Sixth Month 1905, and on Second Day Morning the 12th with those for Discipline.

Accounts are present from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings of Women Friends by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed to attend this Meeting as representatives Viz. From Rhode Island Lydia F. Nichols, Elizabeth P. Foster Anna H. Chace and Abby W. Gardner. From Sandwich Susanna W. Gidley and Elizabeth G. Wilbur, whose names being called they are all present.

One Quarterly Meeting reports the appointment of two Friends as Care Takers, Viz.: Mary J. Foster and Anna H. Gardner, whose names being called they are present.

We are informed that Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting has united with South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Charles Peay Elizabeth P. Foster and Mary J. Foster to the station of Elder.

We have received very acceptable Epistles from all of the Yearly Meetings in our Circle of Correspondence, which have been read to our edification and encouragement, it being especially comforting to us, with our present feelings of weakness, that we have the tender and loving sympathy, and earnest prayers of dear friends who are situated so far from us as to the outward, yet brought near in unity of spirit.

We appoint Abby W. Gardner,

1905. Elizabeth F. Foster Susanna W. Hadley, Mary A. Gardner and Mary J. Foster to prepare essay of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, as way may open, and present them at a future sitting.

Our dear Friend Eli H. Harvey is very acceptably in attendance at this Yearly Meeting, having a Minute from West Union Monthly Meeting of Friends, held near Monrovia, Morgan Co. Indiana, liberating and encouraging him to attend to a concern which had rested with him for some time, to visit, in the love of the Gospel the Yearly Meetings of Ohio, New England, Canada and Philadelphia, and a portion of the meetings composing them, as way opens, also to attend meetings and visit Friends in North Carolina, and to attend to such other religious service, as Truth calls for in the prosecution of the visit, under the direction of Best Wisdom. He being a minister with whom they have unity. Endorsed by White Lick Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Monrovia, 8th month 13th 1904. Also endorsed by Western Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held 10th month 4th 1904.

Our dear Friend Ezra Barker is also very acceptably in attendance with a Minute from Westfield Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Westfield, Indiana 11th mo 19th 1904. uniting with and encouraging him to attend to his concern to accompany Eli H. Harvey in his proposed religious service, he being an Elder in good esteem. The company and religious service, and the solid deportment of these dear Friends has been very comforting and instructive to us, and we are not without a sense of

1915. the sacrifices made by them, in leaving their homes and families to visit us in our weakness and unworthiness, and we hope that on our part we may be concerned to profit by the favor.

The clerk is directed to sign returning Minutes on behalf of this Meeting.

We appoint Abby W. Gardner, Susanna W. Gidley and Louisa S. Foster to prepare a summary from the answers to the Queries and present it at our next sitting.

The representatives are desired to confer together at the close of this sitting and agree upon the names of Friends to serve the Meeting as clerks.

We adjourn to the hour this afternoon that Clerk Friends propose.

Afternoon near the 4th hour Friends again met.

Abby W. Gardner, on behalf of the representatives, informed the Meeting that they had conferred together, and were united in proposing the name of Mary A. Gardner for clerk, and that of Elizabeth H. Wilbur for assistant clerk, which being separately considered, are united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services.

A joint Epistle from the Men's and Women's Yearly Meetings of North Carolina, has been read at this time, which is very interesting and satisfactory to us.

The proposition that joint sessions for business of Men and Women Friends be held by Rhode Island Quarterly and South Kingstown Monthly Meetings, coming before this Meeting it is united with and recommended

1915. ed to these Meetings for their consideration.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last year have been read and approved and this Meeting unites with the Mens Meeting in the reappointment of the same Friends in that service except two who have deceased during the past year, and also in propose the addition of Elizabeth P. Foster, with which the Mens Meeting unites.

The several Queries, followed by answers to each from Rhode Island and Block with Quarterly Meetings have been read at this time, also a summary prepared therefrom, which is approved and is to be placed on record. Viz-

Answer 1st. All our Meetings for religious worship and discipline have been held except three for worship and one for discipline; one of which was omitted on account of a funeral and three because of inclement weather. The week day Meetings and a part of those for business are neglected by some.

The hour is generally well observed. None give way to sleep. Clear of unbecoming behavior.

Ans 2nd Love and unity are in a good degree maintained, and detraction guarded against. No differences have been brought to our notice.

Ans 3rd Some Friends have a concern to bring up those under their direction in plainness of speech, behavior and apparel, to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation, also to be good examples

1905. herein themselves, yet more care in these respects is needed. We believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends families.

Ans 4th Friends are careful to confine the use of spirituous liquors to medicinal purposes. Places of public resort generally avoided, and moderation observed on the occasions referred to.

Ans. 5th None needing assistance, Do not deem placed from among Friends.

Ans 6th Some want of care apparent that proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to discipline.

Ans 7th There are some of our members who at times attend Meetings where there is a paid ministry: We believe clear in the other parts of this query.

Ans 8th We believe Friends are careful in the several parts of this query.

Ans 9th Records have been attended to. No removals without certificate.

Ans 10th Care rests with Friends to deal with offenders when necessary; but owing to our weakness and smallness of numbers a neglect is apparent in these respects.

No further business presenting at this time we adjourn to the time tomorrow that Men Friends propose.

Third day the 19th of the month near the third

1905 hour in the afternoon. Friends again met.

The names of the representatives being called they are all present.

The committee appointed at a previous session to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings have produced such which have been read and approved and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them, (to Canada, Ohio Western, Iowa and Kansas Yearly Meetings of Women Friends), on behalf of this Meeting.

Men Friends have prepared an Epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting, which has been read in this Meeting and united with. The Clerk is directed to sign it in conjunction with the Clerk of the Men's Meeting.

There is no written report from the Book and Tract Committee this year, but we are informed that some have been distributed. Men Friends propose the reappointment of the same Friends to serve in that capacity except two who have deceased, which has been united with in this Meeting.

The business that has come before us having been brought to a close, under a humbling sense of our Heavenly Father's love, and of thankfulness for the favors He hath been pleased to grant we solemnly conclude, purposing to meet again at this place in the Sixth Month next year if consistent with the Divine Will.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

1905. To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters.

Your acceptable Epistle of 6th month last has been read in our Meeting, together with those from the other Yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence, and our hearts are tendered by these evidences of love and sympathy from those who we believe, are striving to walk by the same rule and mind the same things, by which we gain a little fresh courage to hold on our way amid bereavements and disappointments which have been our portion. We crave that we may be favored with resignation to the Lord's will concerning us, and willing to be subject to His turnings and overturnings of His hand upon us, until we are divested of self and of every earthly activity, sitting low and humble at the feet and be taught by the Holy Spirit, even the witness for Truth in our inmost souls, learning of Him who was meek and lowly of heart, and take His yoke upon us that we may find rest unto our souls. The Lord's mercies are new every morning" and "He doth not afflict willingly the children of men". But "as a father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him". For "He knoweth our frame and remembereth we are dust".

We have at this time the company of some dear Friends from away whose labors of love we trust may not be as the "morning cloud and as the early dew that passeth away" and is lost. But may be as seed sown upon good ground which shall spring up, to the honor and glory of the Husbandman and bring forth "fruit, some thirty, some

1905. mighty and some a hundred fold."

Thus may we with you be encouraged to an increase of faithfulness to the end we may win Christ- remembering the precious promise "My Grace is sufficient- for thee."

Desires are begotten in exercised hearts amongst us, that hope may be "steady in well doing" but that we all should strive to be faithful standard bearers, each bearing their share of the burdens, and be one another's helpers in the Lord, and we have the promise that in due season we shall reap if we faint- not.

Oh that we may, even oftener than the returning morning, turn inward and see how it is there, striving to be on the watch and to overcome the enemy of all good who is ever on the alert to draw us astray, if not in one way then in another.

And may He who is Head over all blessed forever be our comforter and strength in every needful time!

Desiring your welfare in every way we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary D. Gardner, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters

It is with a deep sense of our weakness and unworthiness, that we have been permitted to meet again as a Yearly Meeting, humbly craving that the Lord will not forsake us in this our time of need.

Once more we have been cheered by kindly words of greeting from each of the

1905. Yearly Meetings in our Circle of correspondence. Your tender sympathy and encouragement is received with gratitude and appreciation, falling upon hearts which have been again and again stricken and bereaved. As our dear friends are removed, one after another, we are forcibly reminded that here we have no continuing habitation, and are admonished to diligence, that our days work may be done in the day time, ere the night-cometh in which none can work.

Earnestly do we crave that there may be an increasing concern to be found faithful in our allotted places, willing to be moulded and fitted by the Master for His work and service. The cause is His, and the blessed promise to the obedient remains sure, "I will be with thee."

Much has been done for us to encourage us to press forward in the cause of truth and righteousness. We have been, again and again admonished to more faithfulness and greater diligence, again and again reminded of the precious promises to the faithful, and of the goodness and mercy of the Most High to the children of men, also of our responsibility which is increased by these favors.

The time and the strength granted to us, and the ability given us are as talents entrusted to our care, and if we refuse to use them according to the will of the Giver they may be ours no longer, and like the fig tree which bore no fruit- the word go forth "Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground."

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." and the language has been brought to remembrance.

1905. "Awake thou that sleepest, arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."
"The Lord's arm is not shortened that it cannot save, nor His ear grown heavy that it cannot hear". "He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no might He increaseth strength". "The name of the Lord is a strong tower and the righteous runneth into it and is safe". The Lord will have a peculiar people. May none of us plead for an easier way than that cast up for the ransomed and redeemed of the Lord to walk in, even the way of the cross which leads to an "inheritance incorruptible undefiled, and that fadeth not away".

We have the very acceptable company of some dear Friends from another Yearly Meeting, whose comforting presence, and precious words of counsel and encouragement have been to us as a "brook by the way", causing us to feel that they were indeed divinely sent among us, and that we are not forgotten nor forsaken by our Heavenly Father.

In true love and unity of spirit which we trust may never cease, we bid you farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters

Assembled once more, through the unmerited mercy of our Heavenly Father, in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, we have been indeed cheered and encouraged by your words of sympathy and advice as we listened to the reading of your valued Epistle, as well as those

1905. Yearly Meetings, and I think
it is to the Praise of all good that our
hearts do ever overflow that we have not been over-
looked or forgotten who are so small in num-
bers, and but the least in our Father's House.

O the few, who have been wont to gather
to gather here at this time, how have the last
season been called from the Church Militant
to the Church Triumphant, and as of old, the
cry still goeth forth "Watch therefore for ye know
neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son
of Man cometh!" How essential that we all
be engaged, both older and younger, to be found
with Oil in our Lamps, ready to enter into
the Marriage supper, when the call is sound-
ed, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh go ye
out to meet Him". Though our hearts
faint and we are ready to despair, because
of our low estate and feeling that no one
cared for our souls," still dedicated servants,
from afar with their feet shod with the
preparation of the gospel, have been drawn
to come and bid down with us to worship
God in the beauty of Holiness and the simpli-
city of Truth, and as we have been humbled
before Him we have at times been made
sensibly to feel the overshadowing of the Hand
of ancient Fondness, and the Peace that
passeth understanding. Thus a grain of faith
hath arisen that we are still in the care and
keeping of the Holy One of Israel, still the
Sheep of His pasture, still the children
of His Love, for "Behold He that keepeth
Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;"
and "The Lord shall preserve thy going out
and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore." Ps CXXI.

1905.

Surely our God is not a God afar off, but "in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him"

With a salutation of Love
We are your friends.
Signed on behalf of the meeting.
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

The ceaseless flight of time has again brought us to the annual gathering of our people, and it is with hearts bowed in worshiping that we come together; for our number has again been lessened by the hand of death — dear ones have been called hence leaving vacancies in our midst, and there does not seem to be that willingness among our members, which is desirable, to submit themselves to the preparing hand, and become true helpers in the Church, therefore feelings of discouragement are often our portion, and we can only commit ourselves and the Society to the care of Him who rules wisely and well. If we as individuals are willing to give up all and do the little we are qualified for and which seems called for at our hands, we shall no doubt be rewarded for what sacrifices we are called to make. As was remarked in your Epistle, "it is only as we abide under the shadow of His wings and experience of His breaking bread amongst us that we can hope to be strengthened to do the work devolving upon us", and if all would faithfully take a part in the work it would lighten the burdens of those who cannot feel released from the labors and duties which are called for and must be accomplished by some one if they are obedient to the call.

1905. While we are few in number, we have the privilege to remember that "where two or three are rightly gathered to perform true worship, the Father will be with them."

We have with us at this time Friends from a distant Yearly Meeting, who have left their Homes and families to visit us, with whom, in the Love of the Gospel which seems to us an evidence that we are still held in remembrance by the great Head of the Church, and we desire to be truly thankful for the unmerited favor and to profit by the counsel which has been handed forth, letting it sink into our every heart.

May we so live that at the last day we may be permitted to enter one of the many mansions prepared for the righteous of all generations.

Epistles, from all the Yearly Meeting, with which we are in correspondence, have been read in our hearing to our edification and instruction. May we profit by the faithful interest manifested toward us and the valuable counsel conferred.

With an interest in your welfare, and love unfeigned, we are your friends.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

Yet once more has our Heavenly Father permitted us to gather as a Yearly Meeting. And while we have been sitting together we have realized "the eternal God to be our refuge," and that "underneath are the everlasting Arms." O! may we and you, who are of the same household of faith, always praise

1905. His great and glorious name. May our hearts ever dwell with love and gratitude towards Him, who Himself is Love. And because of trials or because the way in which we are led to walk is dark, and we seem to walk alone as to the outward, let us not give way to despair nor let any think that their own trials are the very hardest to endure but let us remember the injunction. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." We feel that we have need of more zeal for the Lord's cause, more of that same zeal which was shown by George Fox and other early Friends. Do we realize that these, the first to call themselves the Friends of Truth, were mostly young people who gave themselves up in their youth to serve Him who died for them and for us. May we and you all together at His footstool "in the silence of all flesh," not in a dull and spiritless state, but may we through His holy help be enabled to reach that state where our souls shall be awake with a lively desire to be taught of Christ. Then, we believe, our spiritual ears will be opened, and we shall hear His voice, clearly, saying unto us "this is the way, walk ye in it." And we shall arise and go out to do His will, without fear because the Lord is with us. Some of us are much concerned that the younger sisters among us should come to recognise the voice of their Heavenly Father, and wait for it. Knowing as we do that a communion with Him will bring to them happiness and peace.

We have with us, some dear Friends from another Yearly Meeting, and their company and labors among us are a comfort to us in our stripped condition.

1905. Your Letter of 10th month last has been received and read in our midst. Your expressions of Love for us, and your desires for our Spiritual welfare are as Lights upon our way for which we thank the great Giver. Our hearts go out to you in Christian Love and fellowship.

"May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

Farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary D. Gardner, Clerk.

1906. At New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westerly Rhode Island. Commencing with Public Meetings for worship on First-Day the 10th of 6th month 1906. and on Second Day Morning the 11th for Discipline.

Accounts are present from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that the following named Friends were appointed to attend this Meeting as representatives. From Rhode Island Mary J. Foster, Lydia F. Nichols, Elizabeth C. Foster and Abby W. Gardner.

From Sandwich Elizabeth G. Wilbur, Susanna W. Sidley and Isabel L. Gifford, whose names being called are all present.

Our dear Friend Ella Newlin is very acceptably in attendance with us, having a Minute of Unity from Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends Iowa held 5th month 17th 1906., liberating and encouraging her to attend to a concern to visit in Gospel Love, New England and Can-

1906. -ada Yearly Meetings of Friends, and a part of the Meetings composing them, and other service as Truth opens the way and Best Wisdom may direct. She being a minister in good esteem among them; Endorsed by Bear Creek Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Paullina, Iowa, 26th of 5th month 1906.

The company and service of this dear Friend has been very comforting and strengthening to us, and thankfulness has been expressed for the precious favor, also a desire that we might realize the sacrifice made to come so far to visit us, and be more concerned, individually and collectively, to be found faithful. The Clerk is directed to furnish her with a returning minute on behalf of this Meeting.

We have been comforted and encouraged at this time by very interesting Epistles from the Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, and the loving sympathy and concern of our dear Sisters is gratefully received.

We appoint Abby W. Gardner, Susanna W. Gidley, Elizabeth P. Foster, Mary A. Gardner and Elizabeth G. Wilbur, to prepare Essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, as way may open, and present them at a future sitting.

Our dear Friend Abner L. Newlin is very acceptably in attendance with us having a minute of full approval from a committee appointed by Bear Creek Quarterly Meeting, for the purpose of seeing that Ella Newlin was suitably provided with a companion. he being a Member in good esteem among them. His company and solid deportment has been helpful and edifying to us.

1906. Our dear Friend Benjamin W. Wood is also in attendance with us, having a minute of unity from Pickering Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Pickering, Ontario Canada, 9th mo. 1st. 1904. Liberating and encouraging him to pursue as Best Wisdom may direct, a Prospect of visiting in the Love of the Gospel, the Meetings of New England Yearly Meeting, also some other Quarterly Meetings, and such other service as may be called for: Endorsed by Yonge Street Four Months Meeting of Friends held in Mariposa, Ontario, 24th of 9th month 1904. also by Canada Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held at Pickering 22nd of 5th Month 1905. He being a Minister in unity with them. His company and services are very acceptable to us, and we hope may not be lightly esteemed, but encouraged to profit.

The Clerk is directed to sign returning minutes for these Friends on behalf of this Meeting.

We appoint Abby M. Gardner, Susanna W. Ridley and Mary J. Foster a Committee to prepare a summary from the answers to the Queries and present it at our next sitting.

The representatives are desired to confer together at the close of this sitting and agree upon the names of Friends to serve the Meeting as Clerks.

We adjourn to the hour this afternoon that Men Friends propose.

Afternoon near the 4th hour Friends again met.

1906. Abby W. Gardner, on behalf of the representatives informed the Meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing the name of Mary A. Gardner for Clerk and that of Elizabeth G. Wilbur for assistant Clerk, which being separately considered are united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services.

An interesting and encouraging Epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting has been read at this time.

The several Queries have been read in this Meeting followed by answers to them all, from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, also a Summary prepared therefrom, which is approved and is to be placed on record. Viz:

Answer First. All our Meetings for religious worship and for discipline have been held. A few of our members are faithful in the attendance of all Meetings when health permits, but the week-day meetings and a part of those for business are neglected by others. The hour is generally pretty well observed. Clear of sleep or unbecoming behavior.

Answer Second. Love and unity are maintained in a good degree, and detraction guarded against. No differences have been brought to our notice.

Answer Third: Some Friends are concerned to bring up those under their care in plainness of speech, behavior and apparel, to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt-

1906. conversation, also to be good examples therein themselves, & more care in these respects is needful. We believe that the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends families.

Answer Fourth. Friends use spirituous liquors for medicinal purposes only, generally avoid places of public resort, and observe moderation and temperance on most occasions.

Answer Fifth. None needing assistance. No children placed from among Friends.

Answer Sixth. Some want of care apparent, that proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to discipline.

Answer Seventh. There are some of our members who at times attend meetings where there is a paid ministry. We believe clear in the other parts of this query.

Answer Eighth. We believe Friends are careful in the several parts of this query.

Answer Ninth. Records have been attended to, and care taken about removal certificates.

Answer Tenth. A care rests with Friends to deal with offenders when necessary as discipline requires, but owing to our weakness and smallness of numbers, a neglect is apparent in these respects.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the past year have been read and ap-

1906. -proved

No further business presenting at this time we adjourn to the time to-morrow that Men Friends propose.

Third day the 12th of the Month, near the third hour in the afternoon Friends again met.

The names of the representatives being called they are all present except one.

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, have produced such, which have been read and approved, and the clerk is directed to sign and forward them (to Canada, Ohio, Western Iowa and Kansas Yearly Meetings of Women Friends) on behalf of this Meeting.

A proposition has come before this Meeting at this time to change the time of holding this Yearly Meeting, by holding it one week earlier, that is, to commence on Seventh day after the first-Sixth day in the Sixth Month, which is united with.

A proposition having been presented by Men Friends that a Committee, composed of Men and Women Friends, be appointed to consider the subject of holding the Yearly Meeting in joint sessions, Lydia F. Nicholls, Mary J. Foster and Susanna W. Gidley are appointed to that service to unite with Jonathan Chace, Job S. Gidley and Charles Perry, and report at the opening of the Yearly Meeting next year.

This Meeting unites with the Men's Meeting in

1906 The reappointment of the same Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings with the addition of Mary J. Foster. Viz. Jonathan Thale, Amos A. Foster, Charles Perry, Mary D. Gardner, Anna H. Thale, Lydia F. Wilson, James H. Tucker, Job S. Gidley, George H. Gifford, Sarah F. Wilbur, Susanna W. Gidley, Jesse R. Tucker and Elizabeth P. Foster.

Our Friends have prepared an Epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting, which has been read in this Meeting and united with. The Clerk is directed to sign it, in conjunction with the Clerk of the Men's meeting.

We have at this Yearly Meeting the very acceptable company of our dear Friends Thomas C. Hogue and Thomas Fisher from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and we have been cheered and comforted by their presence and services, feeling truly grateful that they felt to be with us.

The following named Friends are appointed as a Committee for the distribution of Books and Tracts, and they are encouraged to diligence and faithfulness in the service. Viz. George H. Gifford, James H. Tucker, Job S. Gidley, Jesse R Tucker, Arthur Perry, Charles Perry, Elizabeth P. Foster, Anna H. Thale, Sarah F. Wilbur, Elizabeth G. Wilbur, Emma D. F. Perry and Anna D. Gardner.

The business that has come before us having been accomplished, we solemnly conclude, purposing to meet again at this place in the Fifth Month of next year, if consistent with the Divine Will.

Mary D. Gardner, Clerk.

1906. To Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Friends:

It was with feelings of poverty and discouragement that we came together as a Yearly Meeting, the Father of mercies being our only dependence. For we realized only too well, that of ourselves we were but feeble ones and unable to accomplish anything unless Truly Help should be vouchsafed unto us. Through unmerited mercy we have been enabled to go forward better than we feared, for which favor we desire to be truly thankful, rendering thanks where they are due. Your epistle has been read to our comfort and edification, together with those of the other Yearly Meetings in the circle of our correspondence, and may the helpful thoughts and suggestions sink into our every heart and bear fruit for the harvest. It is a great blessing that we can thus make and be made sensible of the thoughts and sympathy of distant friends.

It is indeed necessary that we live near our Heavenly Father every hour, and may we all be faithful and know an establishment and preservation on the sure foundation Christ-Jesus. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid".

May we all seek to know the will of our Father in Heaven, and be strengthened to do all that is called for at our hands and be helpful as examples to our younger members and not stumbling blocks by the way. We have been favored with the company and services of Friends from distant Yearly Meetings, which we feel to be a great favor, and an evidence that we are still had in remembrance by the Great Head of the

1906. Church. Much good counsel has been handed forth from time to time, and may all, both with you and with us, be enabled, when our annual assemblies are over, to remember the truths to which we have listened, and carry them with into our several homes and our daily lives, profiting by the favors which have been granted us, undeserving as we are.

And now dear Sisters, with a salutation of love we bid you an affectionate farewell, and remain your Sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters.

The kind feelings of sympathy and encouragement, manifested in your very acceptable communication of last 9th month, are cheering and comforting to us, and the precious and instructive counsel imparted meets with a cordial response in hearts deeply exercised for the spiritual growth, and progress in Best things, of our little remnant.

It is with a measure of near and loving unity of Spirit that we are concerned to endeavor to respond, trusting that, if humbly sought for, help may be granted for the service, for truly our weakness and inability of ourselves is keenly felt. We have earnestly desired that our meeting together at this time might be favored with the presence of Him whose wisdom alone is profitable to direct, and without which all of our exertions are fruitless; and that all may be done to His glory and praise, that in patience and meek-

1906. -ness, with lowliness of mind we may seek to encourage and strengthen each other in individual faithfulness in maintaining the principles and testimonies which we profess, letting our lights so shine before men that our Father in Heaven may be glorified, and our example be such that none may be stumbled or turned aside thereby.

We have at this time the very acceptable company of some dear friends from distant Yearly Meetings whose precious words of counsel and encouragement have strengthened us in our weakness, and their presence and example of consistent and weighty deportment gives us fresh courage and comfort, inciting us to more faithfulness and renewed trust in the almighty Power. We have also been favored with very acceptable communications from all of the Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, expressing unity and kindly interest in our welfare. It is in times of lowliness of mind that we have the sweetest fellowship one with another.

It is comforting to remember that the Lord is with his people in all their trials and provings. "In all their afflictions he was afflicted and the Angel of his presence saved them."

Amid discouragements and trying allotments we yet have much to be thankfull for, blessings not always sufficiently valued or rightly appreciated, particularly the precious privilege of meeting together for religious worship with none to hinder or even to molest; and yet this seems to be so lightly esteemed by some that outward affairs are allowed to hinder the attendance of meeting, especially on week days, which is a source of weakness both to themselves

1906. and to the meetings. May there be more of a concern to be diligent in the pursuit of Riches which are unchangeable in their nature and everLasting in their duration, and strength will be given for every sacrifice, and for every service which may be required.

Let us remember the promise that "He that is faithful in the little shall be made ruler over more."

Desiring that we all may individually grow in Grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
We bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.
Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Sisters in the Truth.

We salute you in a measure of that Love that knows no bounds, and desire to acknowledge your acceptable epistle which has been read to our comfort and satisfaction, tending to strengthen us in best things.

We have met together once more in a Yearly Meeting capacity, though feeling weak, and destitute of any good of our own, but desiring to keep near the dear Master, knowing that He is ever near His dependent, trusting children, and ever ready to strengthen and guide those who give themselves up wholly to the Divine Will. Is it not our own fault when if we go astray? He who led Israel forth out of the bondage of Egypt, going before them in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, is as willing now as then to direct

1906. His people. It only remains for us to be faithful to the still small voice which speaks to us all, and it is comforting and cheering for us to remember the declaration in Isaiah "I said not unto the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain" and again. "A bruised reed shall He not break and smoking flax shall He not quench till He send forth judgment unto victory." It is worth while then for us to heed the slightest intimation of duty and as we give up our own wills little by little we shall know of a "Peace which passeth all understanding" and which is worth more than all this world can give. The path of the humble followers of our Saviour may seem too narrow for the younger ones to wish to enter, but let not this deter you, dear young Friends, draw closer in with the offers of redeeming love and mercy

The testimony of those who have tried both paths is, that the true comfort and enjoyment of walking in the strait and narrow way is far greater than anything to be found in the broad way, which in the end "leadeth to destruction" while those who are "faithful unto death" have the promise of "a crown of life".

We are favored at this time with the company of several dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings, their company has been very acceptable, and their gospel labors edifying and instructive.

Desiring your faithfulness and advancement in all right things, we bid you farewell,

And remain your friends,

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary A. Gardner Clerk.

1906. To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

Dear Friends:

Another year has passed swiftly by - The early summer has come again - and with it the time of our Annual Assembly, and as we behold how marvelously the trees and shrubs increase year by year in strength and stature, sending forth new branches, obedient to the laws of nature, so, well will it be for us - frail beings that we are - if in our hearts and lives we can trace each year an increase of spiritual growth, a stronger faith, a deeper root, a reaching after and striving for "the wisdom which is from above, which is first - pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits". Then as days are multiplied and years pass on, an increase of Heavenly treasure may be ours through a growing knowledge of the only true God and His son Jesus Christ. Very comforting and instructive to the heart open to the sweet influences of sympathy and encouragement, was the reading of the Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, each bearing its message of Easterly love, and though far separated as to the outward, there is a strong but tender cord that binds together those of the same household of faith, and living desires have sprung up that we may, with you, stand ready in our several allotments to do the will of Him who said "If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Fathers commandments and abide in His love".

We have been much strengthened at this time by the labors of dear friends

1900. from distant Yearly Meetings, whose company has indeed been precious to us, and let us remember that to the Father of all our sure mercies is due our grateful acknowledgement for His condescension to usward. May the seed they have sown spring up and bear good fruit, some thirty, some sixty and some a hundred fold.

In the Love of the everlasting Gospel
we are your loving sisters.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.
Mary A. Gardner. Clerk.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends

Dear Sisters.

Your letter of last-10th month has reached us, bringing with it evidence of your sisterly love for us, and of your desires for our strengthening in the Truth. It is very grateful to our hearts to be thus remembered.

We realize that it is as you say, that that thy lack of earnestness and zeal among us, to which we referred in our last Epistle to you, is the result of unfaithfulness, and we feel much humbled as we confess it to be true.

We gratefully acknowledge too, that you have pointed out to us the only way to restore that earnestness and zeal with which we desire to be blessed. May we come in true consecration of spirit, to the Masters feet, and only the spirit of obedience there cover us.

May we not look here and there and every where, seeking God without us afar off, when Lo! He is

1906, within us. "God Himself shall be with them and be their God." It has been said "we must silence every creature, we must silence ourselves also, to hear in a profound stillness of the soul this impressible voice of Christ." O may our Society of Friends still hold and teach this, the greatest of all truths, which is the foundation of all true religion. The fact that our Creator does indeed condescend to dwell with men and women; it is that for which we should constantly give thanks.

What were we without God's light and life within us? "For in Him we live and move and have our being."

God has written His Law in our hearts and there He will interpret it, so that we may know what is necessary for our Life Work.

We have several Friends with us from other Yearly Meetings, whose company and labors among us are very acceptable to us, and we desire to be very thankful to our Heavenly Father, that He has sent them to be with us, and that He has given them bread to hand out to us.

With a salutation of much love we are your Sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary A. Gardner, Clerk.

1907

At New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Westerly, Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings for Worship on First Day, the 9th of Sixth Month, 1907, and on Second Day Morning, the 10th, for Discipline.

Our dear Friend Mary A. Gardner, who has for several years so ably and faithfully served this Meeting as clerk, having deceased, Friends are united in proposing the names of Susanna W. Gidley as clerk and Mary P. Foster for assistant clerk for this session.

Accounts are present from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings and the representatives therein named to attend this meeting are from Rhode Island Quarter, Lydia F. Nichols, Elizabeth P. Foster and Lucy M. W. Foster; from Sandwich Quarter, Sarah E. Mitchell, Elizabeth G. Wilbur and Susanna W. Gidley, who are all present except one.

The report of the Committee appointed last year to consider the subject of holding the Yearly Meeting in joint session has been read. It was in favor of holding the sessions of our Yearly Meeting jointly hereafter, and has been united with.

To the Yearly Meeting.

It is proposed by the Committee, that after the reading of the opening minute, the calling the names of the representatives, and the reading of the minutes of last Years meeting, the following report should be made in each meeting.

Viz; The Committee of men and Women Friends, appointed last year, to take into consideration, the proposition of holding joint sessions, are united in proposing as follows,—

That each body hold the usual session separately, on Second day morning.

1907 That both the Men's and Women's Meetings direct their representatives, to meet together at the rise of the morning session, to propose names of Friends to serve the joint meeting, as Clerk and Assistant Clerk, for the ensuing year.

That the Committee on summary answers to the queries be directed also, to meet together and prepare joint summary answers.

That the Committees appointed by each meeting at the morning session, to prepare essays of answers to epistles, be directed to meet together, and prepare a single set of replies.

That the following minute in relation to this change in holding our sessions, shall be appended to each epistle, by the Clerk, as information, to the different Yearly Meetings with which we correspond Viz; — After careful consideration, it has become the united judgment of our Men's and Women's Meetings - That if we should hold our meetings jointly, it would strengthen our hands, and we hope, promote our ability to transact the business of the Yearly Meeting to the honor of Truth.

We have therefore made that change, and from this time, there will be no separate Men's or Women's Yearly Meeting, and we have returned to the custom of sending joint epistles, which formerly prevailed in the correspondence of this Yearly Meeting.

That if both the Men's and Women's Meetings unite with this report, they shall both adjourn, at the close of the morning session, to meet together, in the upper room of the meeting house, at four o'clock, on second day afternoon.

On behalf of the Committee.

Jonathan Lehaca.

Susanna W. Gidley.

1907

We have at this time the very acceptable company of our beloved Friend Elizabeth C. Cooper with a minute from New Garden Monthly Meeting of Friends held at West Grove, Pa., the 8th of Fifth Month, 1907, liberating and encouraging her to attend to a concern to visit New England Yearly Meeting, she being a minister in good esteem among them. Her company and gospel labors have been very acceptable and strengthening to us.

Our beloved Friend Edith Sharpless is in attendance at this meeting as companion of Elizabeth C. Cooper, with a minute of concurrence and encouragement from London Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends held 6th. Month 6th. 1907. Her company, solid deportment, and well-timed advice have been very pleasant and helpful to us.

Our dear Friend Henry T. Outland is in attendance at this meeting with a minute from Rich Square Monthly Meeting of Friends held 5th. Month 18th. 1907, endorsed by Eastern Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Snow Hill, Duplin Co. North Carolina, 5th Month, 25th, 1907. His company at this time is very acceptable and his gospel labors are weighty and edifying.

Our dear Friend Abram Fisher, a minister in good esteem from Rich Square Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Cedar Grove North Carolina, is with us, with a minute from that Monthly Meeting, endorsed by Eastern Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Snow Hill, North Carolina, 5th Month 24th, 1907. The company and gospel labors of this aged father have been helpful and encouraging to us.

1907 We have received very acceptable epistles from all of the Yearly Meetings in our circle of correspondence, which have been read to our edification and encouragement, it being especially comforting to us, with our present feelings of weakness, that we have the tender and loving sympathy and earnest prayers of dear Friends who are situated so far from us as to the outward, yet brought near in unity of spirit.

We appoint Elizabeth P. Foster, Susanna W. Gidley, Mary J. Foster, Sarah E. Mitchell and Eunice B. Clark to prepare essays of epistles to the several Yearly Meetings as they may open, and present them at a future sitting.

This Committee is directed to meet with a similar Committee of Men Friends.

We appoint Eunice B. Clark and Mary J. Foster a Committee to unite with a similar Committee of Men Friends to prepare a summary from the answers to the queries and present to a future sitting.

The Representatives are requested to meet with the Representatives of the Men's Meeting and agree upon the names of Friends to serve the meeting as clerks.

We adjourn until this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Susanna W. Gidley, Clerk.